SKELMERSDALE
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NEW HOSPITAL COULD BE BUILT IN RADICAL VISION FOR FUTURE OF NHS TRUST

Other options include centralising adult and children's A&E at one site with non-urgent services at the other

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

A NEW hospital could be built between Southport and Ormskirk as part of radical plans to improve health services floated by local NHS trust chiefs.

Another option put forward is to centralise most services at one 'hot' site and the other being used as a 'cold' site for non-urgent and specialised services.

The independent report by Northern England Clinical Senate, commissioned by the trust, suggests a new purpose built hospital with good road links to Ormskirk and Southport would be 'ideal but unlikely to receive funding in the current financial climate.'

The report has recommended that Southport Hospital is used as new 'hot site' for redevelopment – but only if maternity and paediatric services could be moved to another nearby Trust.

The report stressed, however, that merging the children's A&E department and maternity services currently on the Ormskirk site with the adult A&E and intensive care services (currently on the Southport site) is "a matter of priority."

Silas Nicholls, who took over as the new chief executive of the Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust just three months ago, has penned an open letter describing his hopes for the future – and how he plans to make changes now to improve long-term care for Sefton and West Lancashire's increasingly ageing population.

As well as a potential new build, other options could include investing heavily in the Southport and/or Ormskirk sites.

Mr Nicholls stressed he is at the 'very beginning' of the process and if a proposal is agreed, it will be followed by public engagement and consultation.

The report published online last week, discusses the pros and cons of using both Ormskirk Hospital or Southport Hospital as a 'hot site' or 'cold site' to reconfigure services for an ageing population.

The plans would spell the end of a 15-year attempt to run the main clinical services from two separate sites at Town Lane, Southport and Wigan Road, Ormskirk

Continued inside

Report outlines pros and cons of using Ormskirk or Southport as 'hot site'

THE report has recommended that Southport Hospital is used as a new 'hot site' for redevelopment - but only if maternity and paediatric services could be moved to a nearby trust.

The Northern England Clinical Senate advice to the Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, looks at both the cases for Ormskirk Hospital and Southport Hospital separately to take on the role of a 'hot site' where services would be reconfigured.

The case for Ormskirk includes that it has "the better estate, significant space to grow, extensive unused theatre and bed capacity and would be cheaper."

The additional capacity would improve patient flow and shorten A&E times to fit government targets.

To enable this to happen, there would also need to be a significant development of the Southport site- especially in relation to urgent care and step-down facilities for frail, elderly patients.

Continued inside

INSIDE THIS WEEK...

Hedley completes charity challenge

Gritters on road in heatwave!

CROSSWORD

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County council begins work on programme to prevent potholes

LANCASHIRE County Council says work to prevent potholes and prolong the life of the county's roads is underway and details of the £4m 'surface dressing' programme will be updated weekly on the council website.

This is just one part of planned £26m programme of road maintenance this year, along with full resurfacing schemes, patching and pothole repairs.

The council says surface dressing is a "quick process" involving a layer of bitumen emulsion and chippings being applied to the surface. This seals the road and stops water getting in, helping to prevent potholes forming when moisture in the road freezes, expands and causes cracks.

A roller is used to compact the loose chippings into the bitumen but the process is actually finished by traffic using the road.

County Councillor Keith Iddon, Lancashire's cabinet member for highways and transport, said: "Surface dressing is a treatment that we use to extend the life of roads which are still in reasonably good overall condition. Every road will eventually need to be fully resurfaced but this is a quick and cost-effective treatment that can extend the life of a road for around 10 years.

"This is an area of highway maintenance where we have taken advantage of improvements in technology by using the data gathered from camera surveys to target this treatment at the optimum point in the lifecycle of a road.

County Councillor Keith Iddon

"In the months before we carry out this treatment our highways teams will already have patched up any significant damage, and the surface dressing then seals it all together. On top of the surface dressing itself, we've already invested around £2m in this prepatching work.

"We'll need to put in place road closures whenever we carry out surface dressing, and would ask people to bear with us while we do this vital maintenance.

"We'd also ask that people take note of the 'no parking' signs that are put out before the work begins, and avoid walking on the newly-laid surface as far as possible until it has hardened.

"We do this type of work in summer as it can only be done in fine weather. We're publishing details of the programme every Friday as, by then, we'll have a good idea of our plans for the next week based on the forecast. Our aim is to help residents and businesses plan around the work and minimise disruption as far as possible."

After surface dressing has been completed, the road is swept 24 hours later to remove loose chippings, with a final sweep being carried out after two weeks.

In the interim, signs are put up asking drivers to stick to 20mph to stop vehicles being damaged by loose chippings. The road is then ready for any road markings to be repainted.

County Councillor Iddon added: "Our roads have suffered due to the winter being colder and wetter than average, however we're now making the most of the summer weather to bring them back into better condition."

A schedule of the work can be found by searching for 'surface dressing' at www.lancashire.gov.uk.

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Appeal for witnesses after 'shocking and brutal' knife attack near shopping centre

A MAN was attacked and stabbed by a gang close to the Concourse shopping centre in Skelmersdale in an incident described by police as "shocking and brutal."

The victim, a 20-year-old man, was walking on a footbridge near to the shopping centre in Southway between 1.30 and 1.50pm on Thursday (June 28) when he was approached from behind by several men.

Members of the group then stabbed him in the back and both arms.

The man was taken to Aintree Hospital for treatment where his injuries were described as serious but not life-threatening.

Officers are appealing for information about the incident and are keen to speak to any witnesses.

Detective Sergeant Paul Mulrooney, of Skelmersdale CID, said: "This was a shocking and brutal attack in broad daylight.

"The victim has been targeted close to a busy shopping centre and we believe a number of people will have seen the offenders involved.

"If you have any information which can assist with our enquiries, please contact us immediately."

Anyone with information can contact police on 101 quoting crime reference SB1803514.

Alternatively, you can contact independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

Ambassadors Network seeking new recruits

Interested businesses invited to attend free breakfast event

THE Skelmersdale Ambassadors Network is holding a free breakfast event aimed at encouraging more local businesses to sign up to the initiative.

Since its launch in 2016 the network has attracted interest from across West Lancashire and beyond.

More than 100 businesses have already benefited from attending networking events, sharing knowledge and making new connections.

Now West Lancs Councils chief are looking to recruit more members to help boost the local economy.

The business breakfast event is being held at the West Lancashire College Skelmersdale campus in College Way on Thursday, July 12 between 7.45 and 9.30am.

Attendees can hear from influential guest speakers, enjoy a morning of networking and refreshments and take a tour of the new Construction, Engineering and Logistics Centre.

To grow and sustain the network a new fee structure will be introduced from September 1. The new fees will allow members to continue to benefit from:

Councillor Ian Moran

- A full programme of networking and social events.
- Opportunities to showcase their business.
- Free seminars and workshops.
- Access to the Skelmersdale Steering Group.

Steve Jones, chair of the Skelmersdale Steering Group, said: "Skelmersdale is a great place to live, work and invest in your business. To continue the success that the network brings to the borough we have ambitious plans to grow and build on these achievements.

"Join the Skelmersdale Ambassadors and you can become a powerful advocate who influences, attracts investment and encourages business growth in West Lancashire."

And Councillor Ian Moran, leader of West Lancs Council and portfolio holder for economic regeneration, added: "A key council priority is to be ambitious for our economy. The Ambassadors Network is continuing to develop and I would encourage businesses across the borough to join and help to make the local economy even stronger, which in turn will benefit everyone living and working here."

Booking is required in advance to secure a place at the event. To find out more email contact@letstalkskelmersdale.com or call the council's Economic Regeneration Team on 01695 712692.

Woman caught with cocaine granted conditional discharge

By our **Court Reporter**

A SKELMERSDALE woman who was still in a drug dealer's car when she was caught in possession of cocaine has been granted a conditional discharge by magistrates after her solicitor said police only charged her to build up a case against the dealer.

Lynette Sorrell, 27, of Harsnips, Birch Green appeared at Sefton Magistrates Court where she pleaded guilty to possession of the class A drug.

Prosecutor Daryl Pollard said Sorrell was a passenger in a car that was stopped by police when she was found to have £25 worth of cocaine.

"When police spoke to them, both defendants confirmed that they did not know each other," Miss Pollard said, "Therefore it was held by the officers that this was a dealer and customer situation."

The dealer, a man from Southport, was also due to appear at the court but his case was adjourned as he is in custody over another matter.

Sorrell's solicitor David Lloyd told the magistrates that he had asked the Crown Prosecution Service to adjourn so that he could ask police to consider granting her a caution. That had failed, he said, so he asked magistrates to consider either a conditional discharge or an absolute discharge.

"They wanted to deal with this young lady with the co-accused," he said. "They have wanted to charge him and she was a vital ingredient of the matter. That is why the police have dealt with the matter in the way they have.

"You may feel that a caution would have been appropriate. She has no previous convictions and she has a child. She works as a shop assistant but she has ambitions and this offence on her record may hinder her. That was the reason I was anxious to try and obtain the caution."

Saying that it was the "most lenient" they could be, the magistrates agreed to grant her a conditional discharge for six months and ordered her to pay £105 in costs and victim surcharge.

Got a story? Ring the Champ News Desk on 01704 392400 or email us at editorial@champnews.com

New hospital plan floated as report says current set-up is 'not sustainable'

From Page 1

which has proved costly for a small hospital trust and added to its debt burden.

The Acute Sustainability Progress Report submitted alongside the Senate advice stated that the trust has an annual turnover of £165 million with a deficit for 2017/18 of £34million.

It also states that the current service configuration is not 'clinically or financially sustainable.'

Silas Nicholls said: "Our patients demand the best care and deserve the best care.

"Even though many of us live healthier lives than ever before - we are seeing more and more people needing urgent care.

"That's because of a huge change our community is under-going.

"In 1996, 14% of people in West Lancashire were aged 65 and over - by 2036 it is expected to be 28%. In Sefton, the change is even more dramatic. People over 65 are projected to number 30% of the population compared with 18% 40 years earlier.

"Getting older means some people need more frequent care, especially those with long-term conditions like breathing difficulties or diseases more common in old age like dementia.

"It also means hospital buildings planned in the 1980s are not fit for the needs of today's mainly older, frailer patients.

"That's why the trust's board members support senior nurses and doctors' view that our services need to change to make sure care continues to improve for the better and is fit for the future.

"How services could be organised in the future range from keeping services as they are, redeveloping and improving the hospital sites at both Southport and Ormskirk through to making the case for a new hospital.

"I have a huge ambition for hospital services in Southport, Formby and West Lancashire. I want to see patient care transformed, making it fit not just for the foreseeable future but for decades ahead."

Respective 'hot site' pros and cons weighed up

...but MP pledges to oppose any reduction in services at Ormskirk

From page 1

For paediatric services, Ormskirk offers easier access across a wider area and fewer children and young people and their families would have to travel – but in this option, there would need to be a paediatric triage site in Southport with children and young people requiring admission needing to travel to Ormskirk.

The case for Southport as the 'hot' site offers the opportunity for the development of Ormskirk as a 'cold' site where the quality of estate and readily available theatre and bed capacity mean that a centre of excellence for elective work for the current population and nearby providers facing waiting time and bed capacity challenges. However, the relocation of maternity and paediatric services to the Southport site could bring a significant risk that expectant mothers could choose to deliver in Wigan, Whiston or Liverpool leading dropping levels to make services unsustainable.

The report found that overall, Ormskirk was the 'marginally better' proposed 'hot site' - unless additional capacity was available for maternity and paediatric inpatient services in neighbouring providers. In this case, the report found that this "fundamentally changed' the preferable 'hot' option back to Southport, which would then be chosen with a "closer proximity to its frail elderly population" as well as the potential to turn Ormskirk into a 'cold' site 'centre of excellence.'

Rosie Cooper

Ultimately the poor quality of the Southport site means that it would need further redevelopment in the medium term regardless of the services provided from it as a 'hot' or 'cold' site.

Meanwhile Rosie Cooper has vowed to fight any proposals which might result in reduced services in the borough.

The West Lancs MP said: "I was aware that a review of clinical services has been taking place and that no decisions on a preferred option has been taken.

"This decision will be subject to a formal consultation and I will strongly oppose any reduction in services provided here at Ormskirk."

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Flying the flag for Armed Forces Day

WEST Lancashire marked Armed Forces Day with a ceremony at Coronation Park, Ormskirk attended by the Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Noel Delaney and Mrs Ann Stubert, the Deputy Lieutenant of Lancashire, Mrs Gail Stanley, local veterans and other civic guests including Councillor Terry Devine the borough's Armed Forces Champion who helped to raise the flag.

Police commissioner's fund awards £70,000 to community groups

LANCASHIRE'S Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw has awarded almost £70,000 to local groups and organisations through his Community Action Fund (CAF).

CAF funding has been distributed to projects across Lancashire, with 30 successful applications awarded grants of up to £2,500 for projects in their local communities, including the Artz Centre in Skelmersdale.

Mr Grunshaw, said: "Since launching CAF in 2013, grants that have been awarded have helped local groups make a real difference in communities across the county. Helping residents and volunteers deliver projects that keep their area safe and reduce crime is what CAF is all about, helping me to achieve my key priorities in my police and crime plan.

"Local people across Lancashire have great ideas that can help in their areas, and I'm looking forward to continuing to support projects through the action fund that make a positive impact in our communities."

For more details about the Community Action Fund, including funding criteria and how to apply, go to the commissioner's website www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk or call 01772 412796.

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Local author to read extracts from her latest novel at town library

AN author from Skelmersdale has published her latest novel set in West Lancashire.

Carol Fenlon's *Mere*, is set on the drained bed of Martin Mere and she describes it as "a chilling tale of what happens when people go against nature."

New Cut Farm, home to the Askin Family, is on land reclaimed from the bed of an ancient mere and drained by their ancestors 150 years ago. Life is tough for the family, but they have always got by.

But when the last remaining son decides to sell up, nothing good comes of it.

And the new couple who come to the farm soon find that not all the former inhabitants have left and that the lost lake is always waiting to return.

Much of Carol's writing is heavily influenced by her surroundings with novels and short stories set in West Lancashire but also touching on nearby Liverpool and North Wales.

Skelmersdale author Carol Fenlon and (below) the cover of her new novel, *Mere*

Keen

Carol's first novel, *Consider The Lilies*, won the Impress Prize for new writers in 2007, while many of her published short stories can be found in the collections, *Triple Death* and *Plotlands*.

And as well as being a fiction writer, Carol is also a keen gardener and local historian.

She will be reading extracts from *Mere* and talking about the inspiration behind the novel at Skelmersdale Library in Southway on Monday, July 9 from 5 to 6.45pm.

For more information and to book a place contact the library on 01695 720312 or email Carol at carofenlon6@gmail.com.

● *Mere* is published by Thunderpoint Publishing and is available at bookshops and on Amazon in paperback and kindle versions.

Primary school holds special community week

DELPH Side Community Primary School really lived up to its name when staff, pupils and members of the Parents, Teachers Friends Association teamed up to host a special Community Week.

Friends from across the town, including Aaron Crest Nursing Home and students from Midstream and Kingsbury School, were invited to the school in Eskdale, Tanhouse to enjoy a range of activities.

These included a Teddy Bears Picnic, a Summer Sounds party, afternoon tea, sports day and a summer fair, in addition to the 'normal' school week.

Delph Side pupils also performed an array of songs and dances to the delight of their visitors.

School business manager, Jo Whitfield, said: "At Delph Side, we believe it is paramount we give something back to our town, modelling to our children the value of community spirit and embedding a sense of pride in where they live.

"The children enjoyed having the opportunity to perform to their audiences and the huge smiles from our guests showed they enjoyed it too."

Pupils and guests enjoying the Delph Side Primary Community Week

Co-op Bank hosts skills sharing session with charity for homeless

STAFF at The Co-operative Bank in Skelmersdale and Manchester hosted a visit by members of the Centrepoint Helpline team for a skills sharing session.

Report by **Henry James**

Centrepoint is the UK's leading youth homelessness charity and the bank has set an ambitious target to raise £1 million for them by the end of this year.

They've also identified several other ways they can work together to help tackle youth homelessness across the UK.

As both organisations run contact centres and take calls and online messages from customers or members of the public, this is one area where they could share best practice and learn from each other.

The Centrepoint Helpline is a free, national service that provides advice and information for young people aged 16 to 25 who are homeless or worried about becoming homeless.

They helped around 4,000 young people in their first year.

In contrast, The Co-operative Bank's contact centres take around 3.5million calls a year from personal and business customers. As many people are more comfortable using an online chat service these days, this has also been introduced by both the bank and the Centrepoint Helpline.

As part of the bank's charity partnership with Centrepoint, the session was an opportunity for both organisations to learn from each other about the best ways to recognise and respond to callers who are vulnerable and facing financial difficulty or issues with homelessness.

During the visit, staff from the bank's award-winning contact centre heard about the type of calls Centrepoint receives and were given guidance on how to support vulnerable people in a range of circumstances.

Bank staff were then able to show the Centrepoint team some of the tools they use to help deliver an efficient and effective online chat service to customers.

Adam Waite, digital media leader at the bank, said following the visit: "We all took a lot away from the session and will be sharing these best practices with colleagues in other areas of the business."

Jo Mayer, director of customer operations at the Co-operative Bank, said: "We were incredibly grateful to Grace and Nina from the Centrepoint Helpline for taking the time to visit us from London.

"This was a great opportunity for our colleagues to learn more about the issues relating to youth homelessness and for us to share specialist skills with each other for the benefit of our customers and the young people that Centrepoint work with."

Nina Calder and Grace Ogunyemi from Centrepoint with Michelle Shepherd who is based at the Co-operative Bank's Skelmersdale office

Veterans group promise Armed Forces Weekend spectacular

THIS year's Skelmersdale Veterans' Association Armed Forces Weekend is just over a week away and organisers are promising a "spectacular event."

The celebration will take place on Saturday and Sunday, July 14 and 15 and an "exciting and packed programme" for the whole family to enjoy and get involved with is being promised.

The event will be held at Blaguegate Playing Fields, Railway Road, Old Skelmersdale.

There will be various weapons systems on show, ranging from pistols to machine guns, including a military Land Rover with mounted machine gun and an all-terrain vehicle.

Skelmersdale Veterans' Association members William Duncan, Paul Mosquito and Jimmy Matthew are all supporting the event. The trio served for a combined total of 54 years in six different countries including Germany, Libya, Northern Ireland and the Falklands.

Association chairman Alan Lewis said: "Skelmersdale is a town with strong links to the military. William, Paul and Jimmy are particularly thrilled to support this event, which as well as being fun, also carries a strong message to the troops, reservists and veterans' associations and their families.

"Over the past year - as they have done for hundreds of years - servicemen and women have continued to serve their country. I believe the relationship between the local community and the armed forces has never been stronger and the association want residents to share in their adventures and get behind them."

Meanwhile, Harry McKenzie has left the association and all the members would like to thank him for his support.

Alan Lewis added: "We thank him for his service and all at the association wish him all the best in his new adventures."

And the association also want to record their thanks the Asda supermarket in Skelmersdale for allowing them to fundraise in the store. The money they raise allows the group to make educational visits to schools and care homes.

Skelmersdale Veterans' Association members William Duncan, Paul Mosquito, Jimmy Matthew, who have a combined 54 years' service between them, will be on duty at the Armed Forces Weekend event

Intrepid couple raise £4,200 for charities

A WEST Lancashire man and his girlfriend have now collected all the money they raised for charity by tackling a series of challenges - a grand total of £4,200.

Hedley Lawson, 66, who lives in Skelmersdale and was born in Ormskirk, and his girlfriend Shelly Hollingwood, were raising the money for Cancer Research UK, Macmillan Nurses, When You Wish Upon A Star and the Deaf Cultural Centre, Birmingham.

In 2017, Hedley climbed Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon in 29 hours, even though he has type 2 diabetes. He has also cycled the entire length of the Leeds-Liverpool Canal both ways in 24 hours and completed a triathlon.

Hedley swam a marathon distance of 26 miles 385 yards too, as well as walking the entire length of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal calling for a pint in every pub along the towpath.

He finished the last of his six challenges, the Manchester Marathon, in a time of seven hours 48 minutes. Unfortunately, Shelly could not run because of injury.

The couple said: "We would like to thank sponsors and people who donated many prizes and people who just donated and Brian from Burscough Football Club who gave the club free for a Northern Soul and Comedy Night."

The couple with their charity cheque

Village garden trail returns

MERE Brow's Magic Garden Trail is set to return for a 12th year between noon and 5pm on Sunday, July 8 when well-tended residential gardens will be opening to the public.

Two buses will ferry visitors between sites, including a vintage vehicle loaned from the William Hunter Museum on Higher Lane. The museum will also be opening its display and will serve lunches and refreshments.

The annual event is organised to raise funds for Mere Brow Methodist Chapel and a donation will also be made to the Air Ambulance.

In addition, the chapel will be displaying a nostalgia exhibition entitled 'The way we were', featuring photos, artefacts and memorabilia.

Tickets for the trail are £5 each, which includes transport between venues.

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Call for students' landlords to help fund local services

Freedom of Information request reveals student-occupied properties would generate £1.5m in council tax if not exempt

Report by **Kenny Parker**

STUDENTS' landlords have been called upon to contribute towards the cost of public services in the borough after a Freedom of Information request revealed that there are more than 1,000 student-occupied properties in West Lancs which would generate £1.5 million in council tax if they were not exempt.

Paul Mullany, from Ashurst, was prompted to make the FoI request after reading about threats to a local community bus service due to proposed cuts by Lancashire County Council.

And while he doesn't expect students to pay council tax, he believes services could be saved if landlords "shared the wealth".

He said: "Following the announcement by the county council of a consultation over the withdrawal of the community bus service in West Lancs to save over £100k - once again hitting the disabled and vulnerable within our community - I decided under the Freedom of Information Act to ask how much council tax money could not be collected from properties registered as student accommodation within the borough.

"The response was shocking and the sum unavailable is more than £1.5m. I believe that the landlords and property developers should be picking up this shortfall and an annual levy should be introduced as part of the planning/change of use applications."

Mr Mullany suggests that as "a gesture of goodwill" landlords and developers in the area could offer to pay for the community bus service and other vital services that are coming under pressure.

A motion was put to the borough council last year by Our West Lancashire's Councillor Adrian Owens to request powers from Government to bring student landlords within the scope of business rates but it failed to gain a majority of support from Labour members.

However, OWL continued to collect signatures in support of the proposal and subsequently sent a petition with 850 names to Downing Street.

Councillor Adam Yates, the council's portfolio holder for finance, said that bringing in such powers would result in student properties facing higher rents as landlords would be likely to factor in the cost and would also have a knock-on effect on the private rental sector, pushing up rents for many hard-working families on low incomes.

That sentiment was echoed by Richard Lambert, chief executive of the National Landlords Association, who said: "We understand that local residents are frustrated by cuts to council funding which are affecting a range of services up and down the country, but this idea is unlikely to gain the support of the student population as it would only end up putting more financial pressures on them.

Student-occupied properties are exempt from council tax

"Landlords are in business to provide homes. If they were made to pay toward a council tax 'shortfall' of £1.5m as calculated by this resident, it would be an additional business cost the equivalent to an extra £100 per month, which would most likely be added to the rent.

"Students contribute greatly to the local economy, and landlords, like any other business, should be able to choose whether they are able to contribute to help maintain pressurised local services."

McComb Students, which has Ormskirk's "largest portfolio of private student halls" did not respond to a request for comment.

And Edge Hill University, also a major provider of student accommodation, said it was a political matter.

West Lancs Council said that the motion can be presented for vote again.

Gritters in action and not a snowflake in sight!

County council deploys gritting fleet to stop roads from melting in the heatwave

WITH the country basking in soaring temperatures the last thing drivers might expect to see at present is a gritting wagon - but Lancashire County Council's gritters have been busy treating the county's roads, to stop them melting in the heat!

The current heatwave has led to road surfaces softening in some places, which can then stick to vehicle tyres, and make the surface slippery.

Gritters have been putting down granite dust on sticky spots to provide a protective layer, and improve skid resistance.

County Councillor Keith Iddon, Lancashire's cabinet member for highways and transport, said: "The prolonged spell of hot weather is causing the bitumen to soften on roads all over the country.

"The problem is that it can start to stick to car tyres, damaging the road by stripping the surface off, and become slippery, which is a potential safety problem.

"We've been using around six of our gritting fleet to apply granite dust where this is happening. This creates a barrier to stop it sticking to people's tyres, and improve skid resistance.

Lancashire County Council's gritters have been treating the roads to stop them melting as temperatures continue to soar

"Now this problem has started it will carry on until the weather cools off so we're sending the gritters out every day at the moment to those places where we know this is a problem, as well as responding to any new locations picked up by our inspectors or reported by the public.

"In some places we're also putting out signs with advisory speed limits to encourage vehicles to slow down for safety.

Damage

"It's not the first time we've had to do this in Lancashire but our climate means that it doesn't happen very often.

"If permanent damage is caused to any of the network, once the weather cools down, we'll assess these locations for any repairs which may be needed.

"In the meantime, I'd ask people to take particular care on the roads, observe any advisory speed limits in place, and report any problems to us which we may not already be aware of."

Women's football advocate Grace on target with MissKick!

Student's T-shirt launch success

Report by **Henry James**

A FOOTBALL-crazy student from Skelmersdale has launched her own T-shirt brand to encourage other females to give the sport a try.

Grace Vella came up with the idea for MissKick as she believes that, despite a recent increase in coverage of women's sport, including football, it is still a struggle for girls playing what remains a predominantly male-orientated pastime.

The 21-year-old, who plays for Wigan Athletic Ladies, launched her brand at the recent Skem Athletic National Girls & Women's Tournament at the JMO Sports Park in Skelmersdale.

She said: "The launch was a brilliant success. Some of our designs sold out on the day and we had fantastic feedback from the girls attending the event. I even managed to get interviewed by Sky Sports!

"We are now into our second production run and our web shop has now opened. I'm really excited about where we can go from here – unlike other brands we are dedicated to female footballers and our customers love that.

Grace Vella at the launch of her MissKick T-shirt brand

"I'm hoping that Skelmersdale will become the world headquarters of a huge brand. It's all very exciting and I am continuing to work hard behind the scenes to get MissKick out there."

And for every T-shirt she sells, Grace will donate £1 girls grassroots football.

Grace added: "You can check us out on Instagram and Twitter at @MissKick_UK and you can find us on Facebook at @MissKick.

"And our website is www.misskick.com where you can find out more information about myself, as well as view all the MissKick T-shirts."

County's latest ex-armed forces pupil mentors graduate

Champion News Desk Tel. 01704 392400

LANCASHIRE County Council's latest group of former armed forces recruits who work as mentors with secondary school pupils, including at Up Holland High, have completed their training.

The sixth annual graduation of the authority's Ex-Armed Forces Mentoring Programme was hosted by council leader, Councillor Geoff Driver CBE and the county's Armed Forces Champion, County Councillor Alf Clempson.

The scheme was launched in 2013 with the aim of supporting Armed Forces Veterans to use their skills and experience working with young people.

The mentors work in secondary schools, where they are supported to mentor young people and undertake training in parallel.

County Councillor Driver said: "Our mentor programme helps armed forces veterans to settle back into civilian life and also aims to help the young people to achieve their goals by recognising their potential, talking about their aspirations and encouraging them to take responsibility for achieving those goals."

Since the start of the programme more than 2,500 young people have been supported which has contributed to improved attendance, engagement with learning and general school life.

The Men-Aces squad proudly display their latest medals

Men-Aces win Fair Play trophy

THE Skem Men-Aces were back in trophy-winning action over the weekend when they travelled to Harrogate to take part in a tournament featuring teams from all four corners of the UK.

And it proved another successful day for the lads as their team finished third in one group, second in two others and came first in the top group.

As an added bonus they were also winners of a Fair Play trophy.

Coaches, Carl and Mim Eaton, said: "Harrogate has always been a favourite for the team - win, lose or draw we always have a good day and this year was extra special.

"The good weather was a bonus, however the quality of football shone as well as the sun, with some outstanding football played."

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Nuala strikes a blow for the 'swinging' sixty-somethings!

Entertainer bucks the trend by releasing her debut CD as she enters her sixth decade

Report by **Henry James**

THE music industry is awash with new bands and singers who've got attitude and opinions, they're quite often good looking and they're usually….. young.

But, that doesn't bother Nuala Duxbury who, at 60, has just released her debut CD *I'd rather be 60 than Sweet 16*.

"It's very exciting," says Nuala from Lathom, who wrote all the words and music. "I didn't write a song until I was 50, and I'm not sure why I suddenly gained that ability, but as I approached my 60th birthday last August, I decided I should do something with it. It seemed like a window of opportunity."

Nuala, who works as an entertainer in residential and nursing homes in Southport and runs singing sessions with a dementia support group in Liverpool, believes you can do anything you really want to.

Working with local musicians Davy Edge and Phill Orme, she recorded the songs over several months at Phill's recording studio, The Doghouse Studios, in Burscough.

"It was a huge learning curve but I loved the process of building on my tunes. I couldn't have done it without Davy and Phill who helped with arrangements, adding instruments and harmonies to my basic guitar and voice, and transforming them into fully-fledged songs.

"I'm a jack of all trades, having done everything from making pottery models of people's houses to being a freelance feature writer for the weekly women's magazines. I like to try new things and have a go!

Nuala Duxbury who is hoping for a hit with her debut CD at the age of 60

"Everything happens when it's meant to happen, so this is my time. I don't know what's round the corner or where I'll be next year, but I do know I've had fun making the CD and I've learned such a lot along the way."

"I'm now working on promoting the CD and, I've already had interest from BBC Music Introducing for my local radio stations (Merseyside and Lancashire).

" Of course, the icing on the cake would be having a hit. Wouldn't that be great whether you're 60 or 16?"

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Plea for help to fund hip op for injured stray

Report by **Kenny Parker**

AN animal lover from West Lancashire is appealing for donations to cover the cost of a hip replacement operation and vets fees for an abandoned dog that is believed to have been run over.

Along with a Facebook group dedicated to helping lost and found pets, Netty Hodson, owner of a dog grooming business in Bickerstaffe, started to track the stray after it was initially seen in the area of the village.

It was finally caught about four weeks later after being spotted sleeping in bushes near to the Walkers crisp factory in Skelmersdale.

Above: An emaciated Boo when she was first picked up.

Below: A healthier-looking Boo with Netty's daughter Gracie.

Although the smooth-coated St Bernard, believed to be about 18 months old, was initially aggressive, Netty eventually managed to win her trust by feeding her sausages.

The emaciated dog - given the name Boo (short for bootiful!) by Netty's daughter, Gracie - was taken into the care of the Carla Lane Animals In Need sanctuary at Melling weighing just 23kg as opposed to the 56kg or so that she should have been at that age.

And although she was microchipped, the chip did not have details of the owner, so after three weeks Netty 'adopted' her to join her two Border terriers.

Sadly though, a trip to the vets for a check-up revealed that Boo had a fractured hip and would need a hip replacement costing £7,000.

Then when Boo started having difficulties breathing another trip to the vets resulted in three litres of fluid being taken from her lungs.

She was referred to specialists in Cheshire where it was discovered that she had a ruptured diaphragm and other internal problems which they said were consistent with being hit by a car, also explaining the hip injury.

Boo underwent major surgery at a cost of £5,800, of which an insurance company has agreed to pay £3,000. However the company declined to cover the cost of the hip replacement, on the basis that the condition was pre-existing.

Pain

Now Netty is appealing to fellow animal lovers to help raise the outstanding amount, along with the cost of the hip operation, through an online donation site.

She has already raised £2,500 and is hoping to raise £10,000 in total with any money left over after Boo's treatment being donated to Carla Lane Animals in Need for the Brighter Lives Kennels Appeal.

Netty said: "The pain Boo must have been in for all those weeks with these injuries doesn't bear thinking about. When I took her on I had no idea of the problems she had but I wouldn't change a thing and, no matter what, I will find a way to get Boo the treatment she deserves."

Anyone wishing to donate to Netty's appeal can do at www.gofundme.com/boos-hip-replacement.

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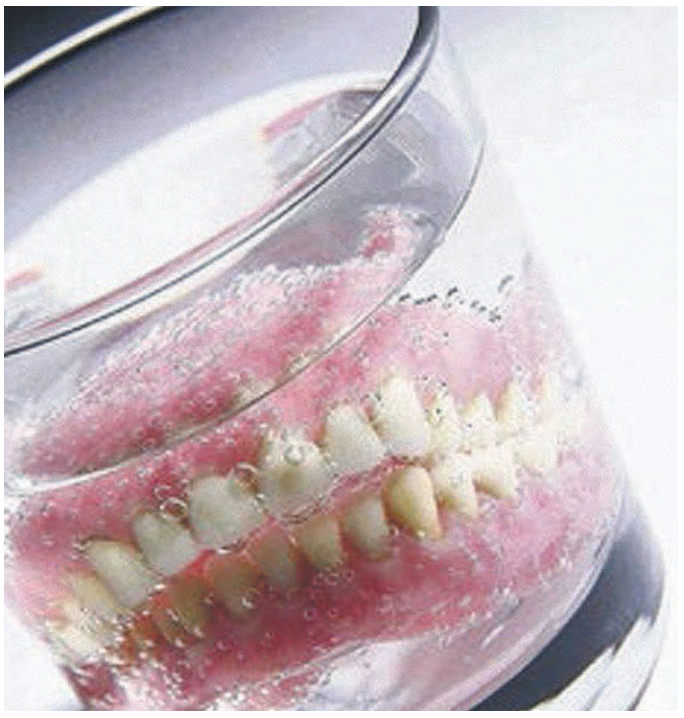

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• Dr Marius McGovern, clinical director at Liverpool Implant and Aesthetic Dental Spa

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New NHS trust chief executive vows to make local hospitals 'we can be proud of'

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

THE new chief executive of the Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust has vowed to make local hospitals "we can be proud of."

Silas Nicholls has joined the trust from Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust where he had been group deputy chief executive.

He said: "One of the most common questions I've been asked since I started is 'why Southport and Ormskirk?' The answer is simple - it's my local hospital and I want to make sure the hospital where I live is one we can be proud of."

He said the trust had been through an uncertain time for both staff and local people over the past few years with no permanent leadership of the two hospitals.

However, he added: "It's a tribute to every one of our staff that, even in challenging times and with growing pressures on the NHS in general, they have strived to give a quality service for patients. That pride, determination and can-do approach is now being channelled into giving our patients the best experience we can.

"Investment in buildings and staff in A&E at Southport, a new day surgery unit at Ormskirk and two major clinical IT initiatives are each contributing to a safer, calmer trust."

Mr Nicholls is an experienced executive who began his NHS career as a graduate trainee. He is a former director of operations and performance at Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust, Wirral, and deputy chief executive and director of strategy at Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust.

New chief executive of Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, Silas Nicholls

In 2014 he became chief operating officer at University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust, Wythenshawe, becoming chief executive in 2016.

He is joined on the trust board by new director of nursing, midwifery and therapies, Juliette Cosgrove, who has more than 30 years' nursing experience, most recently as assistant director of quality and safety at Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust in West Yorkshire.

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Community Dance Festival wows crowd

1,000-plus flock to Coronation Park for annual event

MORE than 1,000 people descended on a sunny Coronation Park for the Ormskirk Community Dance Festival.

The event, now in its fourth year, was organised by Divine Days Community Arts, based in Skelmersdale, working in partnership with the Ormskirk Park Rangers and West Lancs Borough Council.

Divine Days, which also provided the headline act, aims to assist people of all ages, abilities and disabilities to connect with others and founder Katie Whitehead says she is passionate about bringing people together in the community to celebrate inclusion and acceptance.

Other dance groups performing on the day were Elevation, Inspiration Dance, Lancashire Youth Performing Arts (LYPA), Becki Lou Studios, Rufford School of Dance, New Centre Stage, Dream Makers, Learning Stars and Delph Side Talent Club.

Katie said: "We were blown away by the talent of the dancers at this year's event - we have such diversity in our community and so much creativity. It was just amazing to see so many different genres of dance bring the community together.

"It really was an inspiring event and we are grateful for the opportunity to showcase and connect so many people from across the region at what is proving to be a very special event."

Dancers from DivineDays Creative Arts performing at the Coronation Park bandstand.

Meanwhile, LYPA, which meets at Edge Hill University's Rose Theatre, performed Friend like Me from their forthcoming show Aladdin and principal Sharon Powell said: "It was fantastic to see the children enjoying watching each other's performances. We would like to thank Katie from Divine days for inviting us to take part."

Guests at the festival included West Lancs town crier Don Evans, and the Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Noel Delaney and Mrs Ann Stubbert.

Councillor Delaney said: "It's wonderful what the Divine Days Community Arts has done - all these young people are dancing and enjoying themselves.

"It's also really great to see so many people coming to support the event."

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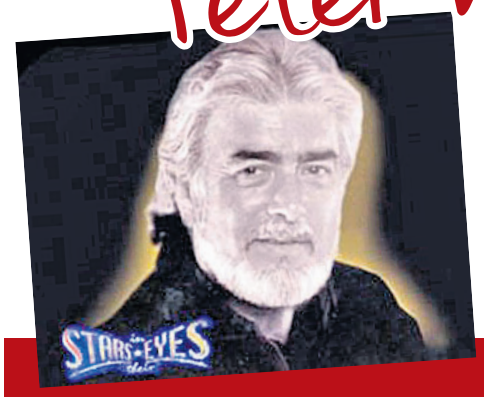

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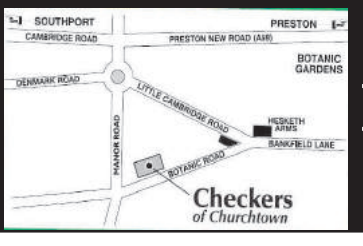

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Young musicians scale the heights!

Talent show contestants wow packed audience at Civic

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Battle of the Bands winners, Social Nightmare, are congratulated by the judges

TALENTED young musicians wowed a sell-out audience at Ormskirk Civic Hall with a mix of covers and their own original material in the Battle of the Bands competition organised by Sound Affects Studios.

Individuals and bands comprising members as young as nine took part bidding to win a day in a recording studio, courtesy of the organisers who have branches in Ormskirk and Aintree.

A total of 13 contenders were selected to compete in two age categories, seven to 12-year-olds and 13 to 17-years, and studio supervisor, Rosa Weiner, described the standard as "exceptionally high".

Each of the acts performed either a cover or a song of their own with the audience asked to vote for their favourites. The performers also received X-Factor-style feedback from the panel of judges.

The two most popular acts chosen by the audience then played a second song with the overall winners being chosen by the judges.

Along with the top prize in each category of a day in Sound Affects recording studio, prizes were also awarded for individual performances.

Winners in the seven to 12 category were Mawdesley band, Social Nightmare, who "brought the house down" with their cover of *The Pretender* by the Foo Fighters and followed it with one of their own compositions.

Runners up were The Cubes, 11 and 12-year-olds from Ormskirk, who won a master class with an expert tutor for their "clever mash-up of the theme from *Friends* and *Sweet Child of Mine*" followed by a "sassy, fiery and all- round solid cover of Amy Winehouse's, *Valerie*."

Ava Hankin from The Cubes also won an award for Best Diva.

Winner of the older category was 14-year-old solo pianist Olivia Diaferi from Aintree.

Runners-up were Ask Elliot, from Skelmersdale, who performed classic indie rock covers. They also won a master class with an expert mentor. The band's leader singer, James Jackson, also competed as a soloist and won Best Original Song.

Other winners were Harley Disley from Mystic Base (10 and 11 year-olds from Burscough) who won Best Performer; and Head Space (13 and 14-year-olds from Parbold) for Best Band Name.

Rosa Weiner said: "It really was a great evening and fantastic to see so many kids get up and have the confidence to perform on such a big stage to a sold out audience."

Council and club serve up tennis feast

ORMSKIRK Tennis Club and West Lancs Council are once again teaming up to host the annual Ormskirk Tennis Festival in the town's Coronation Park on Saturday, July 7 from 10.30am to 3.30pm.

Entry is free and along with plenty of tennis there will be rides, refreshments, and stalls.

Local primary schools will also be taking part in the annual schools competition between 11am and 12.30pm.

Rob Owens, chairman of the club, which recently won Lancashire Club of the Year in this year's LTA British Tennis Awards, said: "Whether you have never played before, are a little rusty or are a seasoned pro, why not come down and have a go?

"With the sunshine set to stay for at least another week and Wimbledon in full swing now is the ideal time to pick up a racket and see if you are a tennis ace!"

Coaches and volunteers from the club will be on hand to provide the necessary equipment and guidance.

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Northern Rail need to learn more than a thing or two about customer service

I AM a visitor to England. I live in Canada. I also have a disability.

On Sunday, June 17, my host from Scarisbrick, Lancashire and I took the train from Liverpool Central Station to Southport. We did not pre-arrange disability accommodations for this trip.

I was truly amazed at how well both of us were accommodated by the Merseyrail staff. We were given clear, easy to understand, instructions on where to buy our ticket, what time the train left, how to find the lift, and appropriate staff accommodation to set down the ramp and help me to board the train.

At Southport an employee was ready and waiting with a ramp to help me to get out of the train.

The service I received was in stark contrast to the deplorable service offered by Northern Rail.

On June 21 I decided to take the train back to Liverpool, this time from the station that is located 500 ft from my friend's home. The station name is Bescar Lane.

On the website it says no staff are available so my host, knowing a ramp is usually on the train, called Northern Rail to ask if they could supply the ramp so he could help me get on board the train instead. My host hoped the personnel on board the train could supply the ramp so he could push me in.

When we called the helpline contact number, supplied on Northern Rail's website we sat on hold for a full half-hour. This is an unacceptably long wait to request a disability accommodation.

When my host asked the representative from Northern Rail if the ramp could be supplied the answer was an unequivocal 'no.' We were told we must plan trips for people using a wheelchair 24 hours in advance. Further, we were told the advance-notice requirement was in full compliance with the policy published on Northern Rail's website.

I looked the policy up and it goes on to say: 'If you give us less than 24-hours notice, we will still do what we can to help you travel.' Northern Rail clearly did not do what they could to help me travel. My host had to drive me to Southport so I could catch the train from there.

Once again, the service I received from the employees at Merseyrail was excellent! I even had to make an unexpected change to my journey and transfer to another train.

Yet the good folks at Merseyrail went above and beyond to help me transfer trains and get safely to my destination in an area I am totally unfamiliar with. They told me the names of the new stop, gave me the new scheduled train times, and then ensured I could make the trip from Southport to Liverpool and back safely and with no unexpected barriers.

It is my sincere hope that this information can be shared with both rail lines. Merseyrail deserves to receive my thanks. Northern Rail will hopefully reconsider how to provide quality customer service to people who use a wheelchair.

Louise Bark, Canada

All drivers should know what to do at roundabouts

TWO words spring to my mind after reading Chris Carr's letter concerning the Concourse mini roundabout (Champion, June 27).

The first is 'scary.' Someone is driving around Skelmersdale (of all places) and doesn't know that you always give way to vehicles on a roundabout?

The second is 'enlightenment.' It explains the bizarre behaviour of vehicles at roundabouts (mini or not).

For his benefit perhaps a simple point could help him. Signage on the approach road on another approach to a roundabout is unseen by you. It means give way to traffic on the roundabout.

No right turn signal is legally required at a mini roundabout, you have to assume that you need to stop if a vehicle is on it before you and not indicating.

If it then leaves before reaching your entrance without a left turn indication then they have done it wrong (this happens a lot and in my opinion should be penalised as it defeats the purpose of roundabouts).

Simply put, if a vehicle is in a position to drive into your offside then you should stop, otherwise you carry on.

Whilst on the subject, Skelmersdale's original concept of roundabouts was almost perfect but then ruined by the introduction of mini roundabouts.

A simple T-junction with appropriate right of way signage is good enough for most three-way situations.

David Symons,
Ashurst, Skelmersdale

PICTURE of the week

Members of the King's Division Band perform a medley of military music at last Sunday's Armed Forces Day celebrations in Southport. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Why do we need four councillors for one ward?

FOLLOWING up from the very relevant comments made last week by Janet Ingman (Letters, June 27) regarding the number of councillors 'operating' in Ormskirk compared to the very noticeable lack of police in the town, I can't help but agree with her sentiments.

Whilst I firmly believe in a fair and just representation for the residents regarding local issues, why do we need four councillors per ward? (I know there are four Labour councillors in Scott ward as I received a postcard telling me so!)

There are, more than likely, more councillors in Ormskirk than there are police on active duty at any one time!

K.M., by email

Glad to see back of messy contractors

ANYBODY else fed up with the cable contractors around the Aughton and Ormskirk area?

Yes, the job may need to be done but do they need to leave such a mess everywhere? The roads and pavements are filthy which means we walk all the dirt into our homes.

I have not seen one road cleaning machine in all the time they have been here.

And they seem to be a law unto themselves, parking their vans wherever they want and often across people's driveways.

I personally, and all my neighbours, will be glad to see the back of them.

L. B., Ormskirk, by email

Send us your views

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

■ PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.

Speeding and increased traffic are good reasons for opposing development on Red Cat Lane

I READ with interest Roderick Green's letter (Champion, June 20) regarding speeding down Red Cat Lane, Burscough.

Having contacted the police last year about the possibility of a mobile speed unit visiting the road and being told that as there were no reported incidents it would not be a priority (reactive not pro-active policing obviously being their motto) I have asked the parish council to investigate a similar lay-out to the Cottage Lane solution in Ormskirk which seems to be effective.

More importantly, the fact that speeding and increased usage by tractors, large articulated lorries and coaches is one of the reasons that the proposed new housing development on Red Cat Lane should be opposed by all residents and users of that road.

**Pauline Gordon,
Red Cat Lane, Burscough**

Foodbank will provide help for struggling families during the long school summer holidays

THE school summer holidays are eagerly anticipated by most children, but they can bring an extra financial burden to families in terms of child care costs and food bills.

Ormskirk Foodbank would like to make it known that they are available to help families with children, who may struggle to provide the extra meals required during the school holidays.

The Foodbank is based at New Church House, next to Ormskirk Parish Church and is open from 11am to 2pm on Tuesdays and Fridays.

For more information on our special school holiday food arrangements, please call in for a chat with one of our volunteers.

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Borough to remember Srebrenica victims

WEST Lancs Council is joining a national campaign encouraging people to remember the victims of the genocide in Srebrenica during the Bosnian War.

This year marks the 23rd anniversary of the atrocities, during which more than 8,000 mainly men and boys were murdered.

The council, along with others across the country, has been asked by the Government to mark Srebrenica Memorial Week from July 8 to 15 and will do so by lighting up the Clock Tower in Ormskirk and the Lightcube in Skelmersdale in green and white from dusk and until dawn.

Burscough to run Football Education Academy Programme

BOSSES at Burscough FC have announced that they will be running a full-time Football Education Academy Programme from this September.

The scheme will be run in conjunction with Bootroom Academies Ltd, headed up by former Liverpool manager Roy Evans and former Liverpool and England international Steve McMahon.

Participants will study for a Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport & Physical Activity which can enable players/students to progress onto Higher Education should they wish, alongside the opportunity to complete some FA qualifications.

Burscough secretary, Steve Hallliwell, said: "We are excited to be embarking on this new venture as we believe that working with Bootroom Academies will offer all of our 16 to 18-year-old players enhanced opportunities.

"All current Burscough FC Academy players who are currently in their first year are welcome to stay on programme at Victoria Park for the 2018-2019 season during the change-over, and naturally progress into their second year with us.

"This opportunity is also open to boys currently in Year 11 or Year 12. The programme is for a duration of two years (one year if you are already in Year 12) and they will study the Level 3 Diploma in Sport & Physical Activity which carries substantial UCAS points.

"There will be no written exams and all assessments are course-work-based."

They will be holding trials on dates to be announced, but anyone interested can e-mail enquiries@bootroomacademies.com quoting 'Burscough FC' along with their name, age and playing position.

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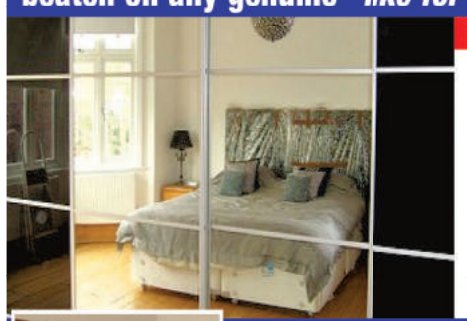

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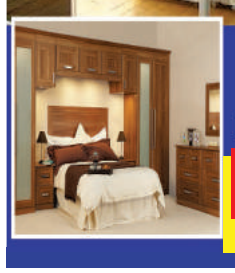

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County council makes changes to libraries' opening hours

OPENING hours at libraries in the borough have changed with effect from Monday (July 2).

Lancashire County Council says that following a consultation it has listened to library users's comments about when they would like their libraries to be open.

The authority says each library has been allocated to one of four different bands depending upon local need.

Libraries in bands one and two will open for 50 and 42 hours respectively over six days; those in band three will open for 34 hours over five days; and band four libraries will open for 18 hours over four days.

Opening times for West Lancs libraries are now as follows:

Burscough: Monday 9am to 7pm; Wednesday 9am to 5pm; Thursday 9am to 1pm; Friday 9am to 5pm; and Saturday 9am to 1pm.

Ormskirk: Monday and Tuesday 9am to 5pm; Wednesday 9am to 1pm; Thursday 1 to 7pm; and Friday and Saturday 9am to 5pm.

Parbold: Tuesday 9am to 5pm; Wednesday 9am to 1pm; Thursday 9am to 7pm; Friday 9am to 5pm; and Saturday 9am to 1pm.

Skelmersdale: Monday 9am to 7pm and Tuesday to Saturday 9am to 5pm.

Tarleton: Monday 9am to 5pm; Tuesday 9am to 7pm; Thursday 9am to 5pm; Friday and Saturday 9am to 1pm.

All libraries will be closed on bank and public holidays and some extra statutory dates.

Skelmersdale Library will be open for a total of 42 hours over six days.

County Councillor Peter Buckley, cabinet member for community and cultural services, said: "The changes to the opening hours at libraries are in response to some very useful feedback we received during our consultation.

"We are very aware that people in local areas have detailed knowledge about what would work best for them, and we've responded to this as much as we could. Wherever possible we've opened libraries on the days and times people told us that they would prefer to use them.

"The changed opening hours also make sure that the service provided to residents is as streamlined and efficient as possible. Libraries will now be open for more hours in total across the county at a reduced total cost, in order to better meet the demand with the resources we have. There will be no difference in the quality of service between bands."

For more information about library services visit the county council website www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries or ring 0300 123 6703.

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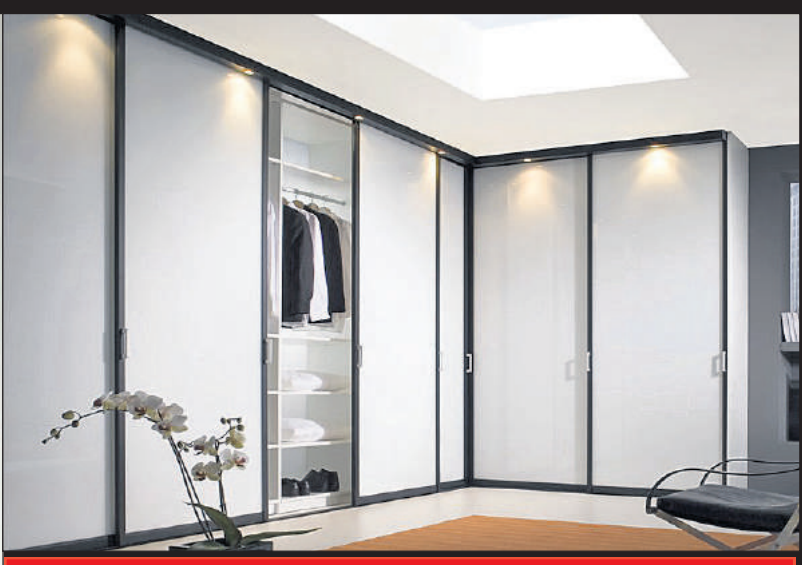

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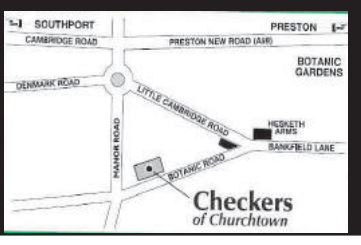

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Holiday park raises £550 for cancer charity

A MEDIEVAL-themed festival at a West Lancs caravan and camping site raised the merry sum of £550 for a cancer charity.

The Medieval Mayhem event at Shaw Hall Holiday Park featured a bouncy castle and stocks, while visitors could challenge each other in archery, boiled egg tossing and a three-legged race! There was also a BBQ, disco and live entertainment.

Following the event a cheque was presented to Pam Walmsley, secretary and treasurer of Southport and district Macmillan Cancer Support, by the park's joint owner David Langley and receptionist Karen Burgess.

David Langley and Karen Burgess present the cheque to Pam Walmsley of Macmillan Cancer Support

Scouts submit plan to build new stores facility at Lathom HQ

ORMSKIRK District Scouts have submitted a planning application to West Lancs Council for planning permission to build a new £20,000 stores facility at their Lathom headquarters.

Following the works on the main building on Hall Lane to convert it into a state-of-the-art community building, the Scouts are now beginning the next phase of the site's redevelopment.

If approved, this will involve the replacement of a timber storage building with a new steel storage unit on a concrete base.

A further stage will involve the landscaping of the site and the addition of other activities spaces.

Michelle Durney, recently-appointed District Commissioner for Ormskirk District Scouts, said: "We're really excited about phase two of the redevelopment of the Ormskirk Scouts Community Hub in Lathom which will see the replacement of our old timber building with a new, £20,000 fit-for-purpose activity and equipment store.

"This will help us to fulfil our ambitions for providing the best possible experiences for increasing numbers of girls and boys in West Lancashire.

"The project will be financed by grant funding and fundraising and the cost is reduced through the use of volunteers for some of the work, for which we're very grateful."

For more information go to the website www.ormskirkscouts.org.uk or email admin@ormskirkscouts.org.uk.

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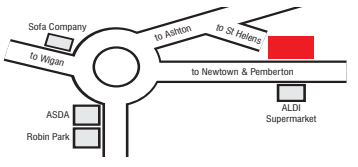

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Guides' helping hand for hospice patients

A GROUP of community-spirited West Lancs youngsters have been 'doing their bit' to make life more comfortable for patients at Queenscourt Hospice.

Members of the 3rd Parbold and Dalton Guides took part in an initiative to make 'comfort' bags - containing items such as shampoo and toiletries - for the hospice that provides support for the people of West Lancs, Southport and Formby with serious illnesses.

Guides, from the unit based at the Hut-on-the Hill in Parbold, hand-stitched the bags using a sewing machine.

Unit leader, Becky Tilley, said: "This is an initiative which started in Manchester and we decided to follow suit. The guides worked well together on this project."

The youngsters, aged between 10 and 14, also made a donation of £212 to the hospice, the proceeds of a sponsored swim at Edge Hill pool.

Members of the 3rd Parbold and Dalton Guides present Queenscourt Hospice community fundraiser Lucy Smith with the 'comfort packs' and the cheque for £212.

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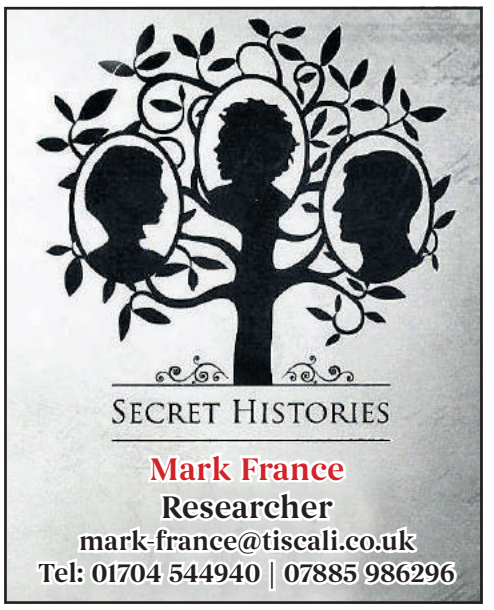

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Pensioners group celebrate anniversary

MEMBERS of the West Lancashire Pensioners Forum celebrated the group's 20th anniversary with a meal and entertainment including prize bingo and a quiz.

The group invited county councillors Terry Aldridge, Nikki Hennessy, and Joan Burrows, Lancashire County Council's Champion for Older People, along to the event which was funded by a £600 donation by the John Laing Foundation.

The forum meets every third Tuesday in the month from 1.30pm at St Anne's Pastoral Centre, Prescot Road, Ormskirk and regularly have guest speakers, as well as enjoying social outings. New members are always welcome for an annual fee of £10.

Right: West Lancashire Pensioners Forum members and guests at the celebrations.

Talk on village's transport history

FORMER Burscough resident and transport buff David Rimmer will talk about transport in the village from a historical perspective at the next meeting of the Well-Being Café, run by the Burscough Hub, at 2pm on Wednesday, July 11 at the Grove Youth and Community Centre, Station Approach.

This will be the group's last meeting at the centre until September 5 due to holiday activities for young people being held.

Meetings on August 1, 8, 15 and 22 will be held instead at The Barons Club, Bobby Langton Way, Burscough.

All are welcome. For further details ring 075189 20043.

Hillsborough cop to face manslaughter trial

Report by **Tom Martin**

HILLSBOROUGH match commander David Duckenfield is set to face trial for the manslaughter of 95 Liverpool fans.

It was confirmed on Friday (June 29) that the former chief superintendent will be prosecuted following a decision by a High Court judge at Preston Crown Court.

In order for this to happen, an 18-year-old 'stay' on his prosecution had to be lifted by the judge, Sir Peter Openshaw, who said: "I confirm that I grant the voluntary bill of indictment to allow prosecution against for manslaughter to proceed."

In the 1989 disaster, 96 Liverpool fans were unlawfully killed at the FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest after they were crushed.

However, under the law at the time, there can be no prosecution for the death of the 96th victim, Tony Bland, because he died more than a year and a day after his injuries were caused.

David Duckenfield

The trial of 73-year-old Duckenfield, who was match commander at the game, is listed to start on September 10.

Four other men will also face trial on charges related to Hillsborough.

Former Sheffield Wednesday club secretary Graham Mackrell is charged with health and safety, and safety at sports grounds offences.

And former solicitor Peter Metcalf, and former police officers Donald Denton and Alan Foster are scheduled to go on trial in January 2019 charged with perverting the course of justice.

A hearing to determine whether former Chief Constable Sir Norman Bettison will be tried has been adjourned until August.

The Crown Prosecution Service applied to lift a historical stay, which is designed to halt further legal proceedings, on Mr Duckenfield which was put in place in 2000.

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Care home residents enjoy nostalgic canal cruise

RESIDENTS of Abbey Wood Lodge residential care home in Ormskirk and friends enjoyed a canal cruise on Leeds-Liverpool Canal aboard the ***Rose of Parbold***.

The trip was organised as part of the home's regular activities programme which includes afternoon teas, trips to restaurants and shops.

Volunteers on the Rose of Parbold gave a talk about the canal locks, explaining their age and how they work. And the trip brought back special memories for one of the ladies who used to enjoy family holidays aboard a narrowboat.

Lesley Malone, group events ambassador for Athena Healthcare, which runs the Ormskirk home, said: "It was a very memorable trip for all."

Residents from Abbey Wood Lodge and their friends enjoyed a canal cruise aboard the *Rose of Parbold*.

Graduate launches men's support group

AN Edge Hill University criminology and sociology graduate has launched a new group to help support men who are struggling to talk about issues that concern them.

Jordan Nimmo

Jordan Nimmo, who graduated from the Ormskirk campus last summer, has launched Men Behind the Masc to help break down the stigma for men of all ages to access help and support on a wide range of topics, from mental health to the pressures of fatherhood and finances, gambling, abuse and domestic violence.

The 27-year-old has set up the group on social media sites Facebook (men Behind the Masc); Twitter (@behindmen); and Instagram (MenBehindTheMasc). And as well as reaching out online, he hopes in the future to be able to run weekly sessions at Edge Hill and The Atkinson in Southport to enable men to access face-to-face support.

'Mixed feelings'

The father-of-two, who works in adult social care, told the Champion: "I found out that I was going to become a father when I was just 19 and processing such huge news when you are a teenager takes some getting your head around. I'm a father of two now and I adore my sons but I would have liked someone to turn to at that point for a bit of guidance and reassurance.

"My stepdad has brought me up since I was a baby and has always been a fantastic father to me, but I've always wondered about my biological father, who I don't really know, so news of the pregnancy stirred up mixed feelings and not something I would have wanted to talk through with my family.

"I have come to terms with my issues now but would love to be able to help others who would like to be able to talk about their fears, concerns and issues without any judgement. I hope to help men to break boundaries, smash stigma and unlock their potential.

"I am currently in the process of applying for funding to pay for group sessions in Southport and Ormskirk. Anyone who can help or who would like to join the group can please contact me on any of the above social media."

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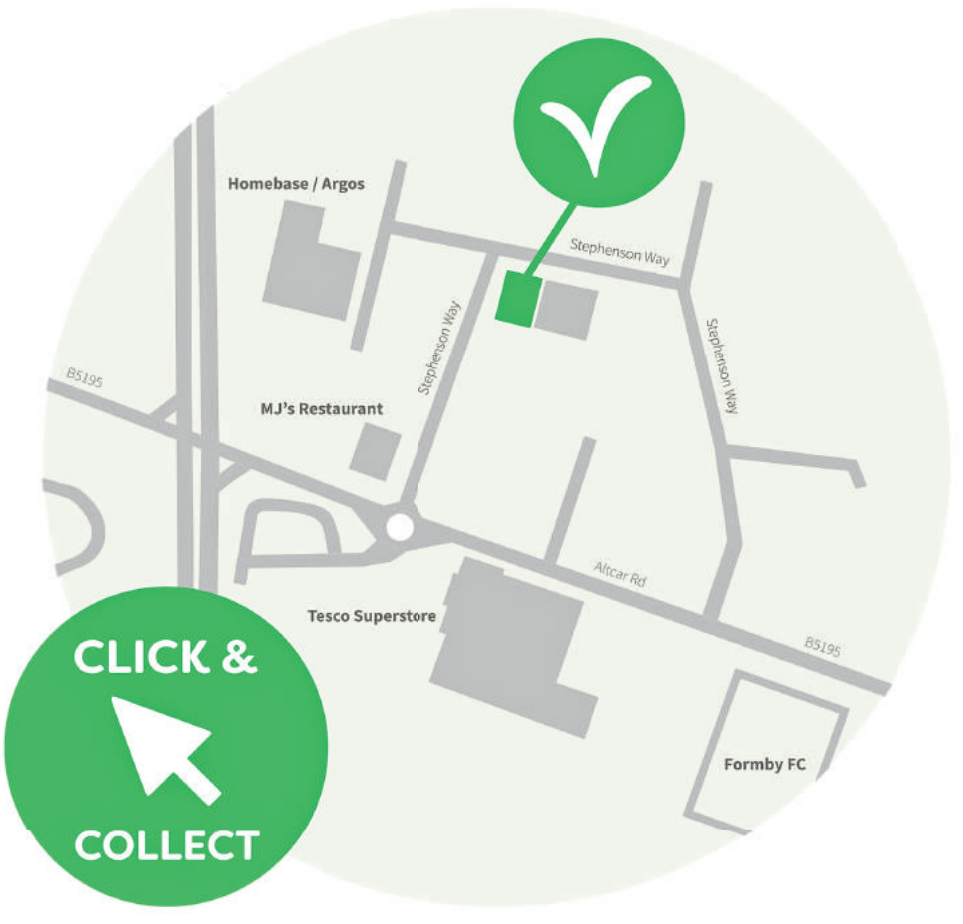

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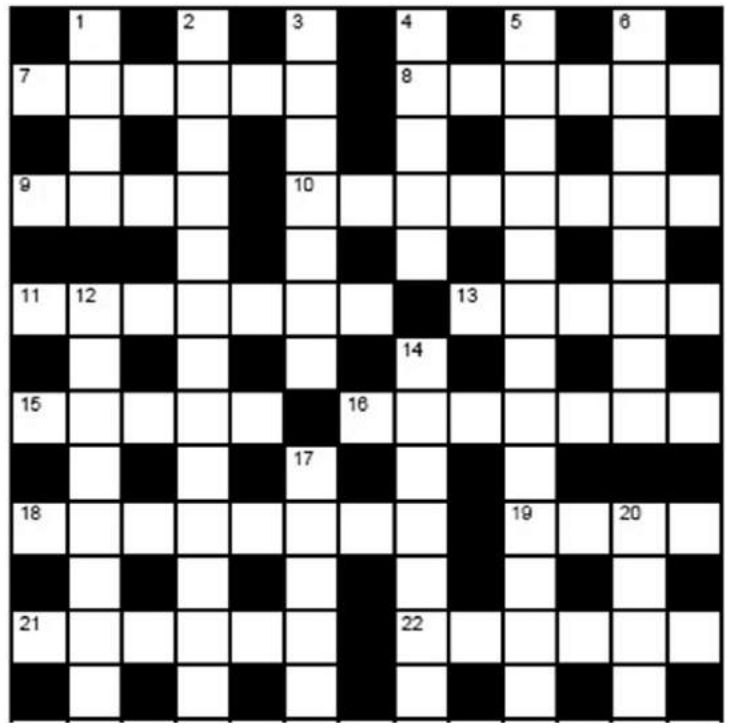

Last week's solutions:
Across: 7. Monkey puzzles. 8. Snowshoe. 9. Lute. 10. Puerile. 12. Paint. 14. Obama. 16. Elderly. 19. Crux. 20. On and off. 22. Jet propulsion.
Down: 1. Corn. 2. Skewer. 3. Eyehole. 4. Tuner. 5. Azalea. 6. Sentinel. 11. Unburden. 13. Cleanup. 15. Mix-ups. 17. Eldest. 18. Log-on. 21. Flow.

ACROSS

7. Relating to seeing or sight (6)
8. Beverage container with a handle, spout and lid (6)
9. Extinct flightless bird of Mauritius (4)
10. The smaller number or part (8)
11. Country in South West Africa (7)
13. Tread heavily and noisily (5)
15. A proverb or short statement expressing a general truth (5)
16. Card game using two packs, similar to Rummy (7)
18. An individual animal, plant, or single-celled life form (8)
19. To make or become hot (4)
21. Violent or extreme disorder, chaos (6)
22. Long, thin strip of pasta (6)

DOWN

1. Informal salutation in the Italian language used for both hello and goodbye (4)
2. Self-written account of a person's life (13)
3. Card game in which players try to collect pairs (3, 4)
4. Strong unpleasant smell (5)
5. Without thought or understanding, mechanically (6-7)
6. Scorn, disdain (8)
12. Historic term for a county or borough councillor (8)
14. Remittance (7)
17. Informal term for a gadget or device, especially one whose proper name you can't recall (5)
20. Rod or spindle on which a wheel is fixed (4)

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Three Inch Fools performing at Rufford Old Hall

THE Three Inch Fools, a national touring company acclaimed for their fast-paced and musically driven approach to Shakespeare, will be coming to National Trust property, Rufford Old Hall, on Tuesday, August 7 at 7pm.

Five actors, with all manner of musical instruments and plenty of character-swapping, will present an inventive take on Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream as part of their national summer tour.

Shakespeare's much-loved play is a comic tale of runaway lovers, beguiling potions and an unfortunate individual who gets turned into a donkey… When four unfortunate lovers decide to elope into the woods, little do they know things are about to get a lot more complex. Add to the mix a mischievous sprite and a motley crew of mechanicals attempting to rehearse a play, and anything could happen.

The five-strong company of Fools bring the magical world of the forest vividly to life in this new production, in a way that is certain to delight and surprise those already familiar with the play, and to enchant those who have yet to discover its joys.

Co-founder and director James Hyde said: "We want to show Shakespeare off to everyone, and excite a whole new generation of Shakespeare lovers to get to know his plays in all their vibrancy. Through our own high-paced performance style and musical talents we would say we have found our own unique take on Shakespeare."

The Three Inch Fools specialise in bringing Shakespeare to life in innovative and unexpected ways, through bold choreography and mystical sound-worlds, working with award-winning composer Stephen Hyde.

The Three Inch Fools

Original music plays a central role in this production, cleverly helping to elevate Shakespeare's text from the page, and to recreate the same lively atmosphere that Elizabethan audiences would have experienced.

Over the years, The Three Inch Fools have performed in venues ranging from castles and cathedrals to bookshops and seaside piers – all the world's a stage! They are particularly excited to be returning to Rufford Old Hall this year, and to be working with the National Trust to bring one of Shakespeare's best-loved plays to such a beautiful location.

Audience members are invited to arrive early, and to bring a picnic to enjoy, to add to the festival atmosphere of the performance, and to make this a midsummer night's dream of their own.

Tickets are available from www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events, or by contacting the National Trust on 03442 491895. Gates open for picnics from 6pm. Please note: this is an outdoor performance, so please bring something to sit on, and remember to wrap up warm.

Former EastEnders star appearing in new musical

MICHELLE Gayle and Alice Barlow are starring in the new musical Son of a Preacher Man.

Son of a Preacher is playing the Liverpool Empire Theatre until this Saturday (July 7).

Featuring the soulful music of Dusty Springfield, with a book written by Warner Brown and directed and choreographed by Craig Revel Horwood, Son of a Preacher Man embarked on a national tour in September 2017.

Three broken hearts, one Soho hang-out, and the only man who could ever help them... Welcome to the Preacher Man, the swinging 1960s Soho joint where the kids danced the night away to the latest crazes and dared to dream of love, while the legendary owner, the Preacher Man himself, dispensed advice to cure the loneliest of hearts.

Only, that was a long time ago and all that remains are the memories, the stories and the myths. Until now, that is, when three random strangers, generations apart but all in need of help with their hopeless love lives, are inexplicably drawn to the site of the original venue. The Preacher Man is long gone, but his son, with help from the wonderful Cappuccino Sisters, might just find it in himself to channel the spirit of the Preacher Man and once more give these three lovesick strangers the look of love.

Featuring the greatest hits of Dusty Springfield, including The Look Of Love, I Only Want To Be With You, Spooky and of course, the classic Son Of A Preacher Man.

The new musical by writer Warner Brow aims to have audiences laughing, crying and singing their heart out to some of the greatest songs ever written.

Directed and choreographed by Strictly Come Dancing's Craig Revel Horwood, Son of a Preacher Man is at the Liverpool Empire Theatre for one week only.

Choreographer Craig Revel Horwood said: "I am delighted to bring to life for the very first time this wonderful story created by Warner Brown, with soulful songs from the legendary Dusty Springfield's iconic music catalogue.

A scene from Son of a Preacher Man

"I hope that audiences in Liverpool will come to love this warm-hearted and uplifting new musical as much as I do."

Michelle Gayle plays Alison. Michelle is an actress and singer best known for her roles in Grange Hill and EastEnders, and for achieving six top 20 hits and selling a million records with both of her albums receiving a nomination for a Brit award in the Best British Female category.

On stage, Michelle has played the leading role of Belle in Disney's West End production of Beauty and The Beast and toured with plays including Mum's The Word, The Brother's, and Hopelessly Devoted, which was produced by Paines Plough and written by award winning poet, Kate Tempest.

Other Film and television credits include Wolfblood, Joy Division, The Naked Poet, Doctors, Holby City, Family Affairs and True Crimes.

Music of Queen of Pop celebrated at theatre

Material Girl is coming to Southport

AS the Queen of Pop turns 60 this year, Material Girl will soar into Southport Theatre to tell the story of one of the world's most prolific female singers.

With incredible vocals, amazing dancers, video footage and narration, Material Girl celebrates the greatest songs from the Queen of Pop, Madonna. Audience members will be taken on a journey through the scandals, the controversy and the music of one of the world's most iconic figures, told through the eyes of the sensational leading lady, Jodie Jane Jackson.

Theatre-goers will hear stories and little-known facts about Madonna as the show follows her career and music through her 35 years at the top and features all the hits such as Like A Virgin, Papa Don't Preach, Vogue, Crazy for You, Into the Groove, Like a Prayer, Express Yourself and many more.

For fans of Madonna, there is no better tribute.

Material Girl – The Music of Madonna is at Southport Theatre on Thursday, July 12, 7.30pm. Tickets are on sale now. For more information or to book tickets, visit the Box Office Mon-Sat 11am-4pm, call 0844 871 3021 or visit www.atgtickets.com/southport

Thriller Live at The Liverpool Empire

Thriller Live was a slickly staged production

Review by **Henry James**

THE smash-hit West End show Thriller Live returned to the Liverpool Empire last week.

The production told the story, through his music, of the life of the King of Pop (Michael Jackson) from his Motown days, right through to his death at the age of just 50.

Critics have said the musical has little, or no storyline, however the music of Jackson was enough to keep audiences entertained throughout.

Among the highlights of the first half was Tony Ben Azouz's rendition of Dangerous, which included some of Jackson's famous moonwalking moves. These were met with applause from the Liverpool audience.

There were some slower numbers too. One of these was She's Out Of My Life, sung in this production by Rory Taylor, who is from The Wirral and who came second on the arena tour of Jesus Christ Superstar.

It was disappointing though to see Rockin' Robin presented through a pre-recorded video screen.

The second half was stronger and included Jackson's songs which contain political messages such as They Don't Care About Us, and Earth Song.

His most popular tunes - Thriller, Billie Jean and Bad - were saved to the end of the night and produced a powerful end to proceedings.

The songs were played by a seven piece band, which was directed by Andy Jeffcoat. They produced a pulsating sound which had many people dancing in their seats on the night I went. However it was a shame the band was hidden from view for the majority of the night.

This was a slickly staged show and was an entertaining run through of the music of Michael Jackson. 8/10

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The advertisement featured in the Champion created excellent response and feed back. In fact, we were so impressed with the graphic and layout of the advert your team designed, we reproduced it for notices and posters around the event.

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WOODEN TRAILER 5 foot x 3 foot, good condition £50 0770 4648931

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RECLINING CHAIR New with matching footstool, stone colour, cost £500 selling for £300 unused 01695 229814

DINING CHAIRS Six Leather high back dining chairs, dark brown with oak legs. £60. 07469 254540

TV CABINET Flagstone (Stokers) £100. Pictures on request. Also selling coffee table & mirror 07922699993

PATIO TABLE round with 4 chairs £12. Wall mirror, bevelled edge, good condition £30 07934 496817

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BRANDY GLASSES 8 Buckingham Crystal 32cl nicely weighted best quality no cracks or ships 24% lead crystal originally £120 sell £25.00 01695420872

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HOUSE AND HOME

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PUNCH BOWL Large silver plated heavily embossed, made by Viners, with 12 cups, large round tray and ladle. £75. 01704 530137

COFFEE TABLE Flagstone (stokers) square shape includes 6 draws on two sides £100. Also have flagstone mirror & tv cabinet 07922699993

COFFEE TABLE M&S mahogany colour. Rectangular shape with draws. Pictures and measurements on request. £80 07922699993

GARAGE DOOR Aluminium/galvanised up and over door with all fittings and frame (if required). 220 x 220 cm, v.good condition. £30 01695424797

INTERNAL DOORS seven wood finish with handles and fittings all excellent condition - ring for various sizes £20 each or £100 for all 01695424797

VERTICAL BLINDS 5 white/cream blinds with fixtures and fittings, subtle pattern, excellent condition - ring for sizes £15 each or £65 for all 01695424797

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SWIVEL CHAIR Nut Brown Leather complete with footstool. Unmarked perfect condition was £240 save over £100. Absolute bargain at £95. 07751285336

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HOUSE AND HOME

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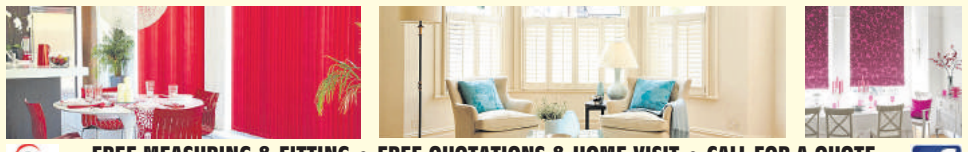

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NONSLIP SHOWERTRAY rectangular 1200x800, stylish textured slate grey. Crosswater/Simpsons original AS0R81200SL with original trap and grille. Works perfectly. Only used twice. £200. 01695 578368

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Start Date: Friday 1st September 2018

Full job details and application forms are available from the school office, or to request a copy to be sent via email please call 01695 722931 or email csmalley@moorside-academy.co.uk

Please note CVs will not be considered.
Closing Date: Wednesday 11th July 2017 12pm.

See our Picture of the Week on page 16

Queenscourt Hospice, a local charity providing support for people of Southport, Formby and West Lancashire. Our philosophy of care is 'life is for living' and that quality of life is paramount for those whose life may be shorter than otherwise expected.

ESTATES AND RISK OPERATIVE

30 hours per week across Monday to Friday Permanent
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We are seeking to recruit a 'hands-on' estates operative to undertake the required maintenance of our Hospice. The role is based at Queenscourt Hospice on Town Lane, Southport. The hours of work are 30 hours per week and will be undertaken Monday to Friday between 8am and 5pm with very occasional weekend and evening emergency call-out.

The role will involve carrying out routine repairs, testing and risk assessments; Identifying and dealing with any hazards within the hospice and its grounds; Working with the Estates Officer to plan an annual programme of preventative maintenance; Being the point of contact for all on site external contractors.

The successful candidate with have up to date 'time-served' skills within the electrical, plumbing, joinery or maintenance industry with experience in a similar role. You will also need to be of intermediate ability using a computer.

The role is subject to Disclosure and Barring Service clearance (formerly CRB).

Closing date for receipt of applications: Sunday 8th July 2018

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• Competitive salaries • Supportive management structure • Opportunities for training and development • Subsidised staff meals • Free parking • Transferable NHS pension for those eligible • Working in a modern, bright and welcoming environment

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bfd bed factory direct

JOB VACANCIES

STORE SALES

Working as part of our sales team, you will be providing customers with advice and information within our retail stores.

The successful candidate will have the chance to grow with this position and will liaise closely with the marketing department and sales team.

Duties to be performed will include:
• Providing product advice and recommendations to customers
• Booking jobs onto a manufacturing system
• Liaising with our head office logistics team
• Working closely with the marketing team, website and social media channels
• Processing orders over the telephone and in store Requirements:
• Sales/Customer Service experience preferred but not essential as training given
• Confident and friendly with excellent communication skills
• Flexible with regards to working hours & weekend work required
• Smart appearance
• Good communication skills
• Basic pay Plus Bonus
• Any social media experience would be an advantage

OUT OF HOURS SALES & CUSTOMER SERVICE

Full and Part time staff required

Working as part of sales team, you will be providing customers with product information over the telephone and live chat on our web site.

The successful candidate will have the chance to grow with this position and manage a team.

Duties to perform include;
• Providing product advice and recommendations
• Working with our marketing team, website and social media channels
• Processing orders over the telephone & via the website

Requirements
Sales/Customer service experience preferred but not essential. Confident and friendly with good communication skills.

Working between our Aintree office & Head office

ECOMMERCE CO-ORDINATOR

Job Responsibilities
We are looking for a candidate to expand our digital channel. As our eCommerce coordinator you will be involved and work across many areas of the business. We are looking for a dynamic and proactive individual to be instrumental in delivering E-Commerce functions to our organisation. This is a role for a talented and ambitious individual who has potential to become a key part of our organisation.

Qualities & Requirements:
• Digital Marketing
• Creating Online Content and Content Management
• Magento Experience Advantageous
• SEO Experience Advantageous
• Excellent communication skills
• Bright, self-starter with a great can-do attitude and passionate about digital.
• Photoshop and Design Skills Advantageous
• Good presentation skills with confidence presenting findings, analysis and information
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• Comfortable with manipulating and analysing large data sets
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- Church Road, Manor Grove, The Winsters, Wilcove, Willow Hey

ASHURST
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- Ennerdale

UPHOLLAND
- Bardsley Close, Heaton Close, Ormskirk Road, Ravenhead Drive, The Dell
- Dayfield, Highgate Road, Mayfield Road, Mill Lane, Millers Nook, Stanley Road
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CLOTHES BUNDLE Baby boy clothes bundle 6-9 months, includes blankets,towels, babygrows, tshirts, jeans and trousers. Zara, asda, disney. Some unworn. £15 07725832259

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TOYS AND GAMES

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DEATHS

BERKLEY SYLVIA

24th June 2018
Peacefully at
The Spinney Nursing Home
Formerly of Dayfield, Upholland
aged 84 years

Beloved Wife of the late James William. Devoted Mother of David and Angela. Much loved Mother in law of Eileen. Dear Grandma of Daniel, Stuart, Michael, Neil, Martin and Matthew. A Great Grandma to 10 Great Grandchildren. Also a dear Sister of Audrey and Sister in law to Jean, Jean, Alan, John and Sheila. A funeral service will take place on Friday 13th July 2018 at Dalton Parish Church at 11.00am. Followed by interment in the Churchyard. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Dalton Parish Church c/o and all enquiries to W.Banks Funeral Services Sefton Villa, Sefton Road, Orrell, WN5 8LP. Tel: 01695 522272

DEATHS

PAYNTER CHARLIE

29th June 2018
Peacefully at
Aaron Crest Care Home

Loving Husband of the late Mary. Devoted Dad of Sandra, Charles and Gloria (deceased). Cherished Grandad, Great Grandad and Great, Great Grandad of all his Grandchildren. Dear Father-in-law and friend to many. Funeral service will take place at St. Helens Crematorium on Wednesday 11th July at 10am. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for Queenscourt Hospice. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel: 01695 559868

BALDWIN ROBERT (BOB)

22nd June 2018
Peacefully in Stocks Hall Nursing Home
surrounded by his loving family
aged 87 years

Loving Husband of the late Margaret. Devoted Dad of Les, Sylvia, Val and Andrew (deceased). Cherished Grandad of Kevin, Andrew, Vicki, Jennie and Darren, and Great Grandad of Leo. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Tuesday 10th July at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for Downs Syndrome Society. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel: 01695 559868

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

DEATHS

CRABBE JOHN COLIN

23rd June 2018
Peacefully at home
aged 80 years

Dearly loved Husband of Irene. Loving Dad of Elaine and Peter, much loved Grandad of Emma and Katherine, dear Father in law of Jerry and brother to David, Bernard and Robert (deceased). Colin will be very sadly missed by us all. Funeral Service and interment will take place at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Higher Lane, Dalton on Thursday 5th July at 1.30pm. Family flowers only please by request, donations if desired for Bloodwise. Information about Bloodwise can be found at 'bloodwise.org.uk' All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel:01695 559868

HYNES (NEE CLIFT) SHARON

1st July 2018
Passed away peacefully in hospital
aged 60 years

Our gorgeous, courageous, witty Mum, Wife and Nan was taken from us far too soon after a brave battle fought with dignity and strength. Loving wife of Gary, amazing Mum of Nicky, Carly and Becky, much loved Mother in Law of Jay and Rob and a special Nan of Lloyd, Kaiden and Jacob. Loved and missed forever. Funeral service will take place at West Lancs Crematorium, Burscough on Friday 6th July at 12:15 pm. Family flowers only please but donations will be gratefully accepted for a charity to be announced at the service. For all enquiries please contact Hunters of Ormskirk, 128b Burscough St Ormskirk, L39 2EY Tel: 01695 572997

DEATHS

EMBLEM EILEEN MAY

26th June 2018
Aged 94 Years

Sadly passed away after a short illness. Eileen will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 16th July at 12:40 pm. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Southport Kidney Fund. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

TODHUNTER JOHN BARRY

Peacefully in Southport Hospital
25th June 2018
aged 72 years

Dear Husband of Hilda, loving Dad and Grandad. Sadly missed by all the family. 'Til we meet again, from your Bride' Funeral Service at West Lancs Crematorium, Burscough on Monday 9th July at 2.30pm. Enquiries to Devonport Funeral Services Tel: 01695 731199

HARDING HENRIETTA (IRENE)

27th June 2018
aged 73 years

Dear Wife of John, Mum to Donald, John (deceased), Susan and Louise. Loving Nan to all her Grandchildren. Sister to Robert, John, Christine, and the late Donald, Patsy and Susan. Funeral service at St. Francis of Assissi Church Digmoor Skelmersdale. Followed by burial at Liverpool Road. Enquiries to Devonport Funeral Services. Tel: 01695 731199

DEATHS

HARTLEY JOE

22nd June 2018
Aged 98 years

Died peacefully. Dearly loved Husband of the late Peggy. Much loved Brother of the late Clara. Joe will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 12th July at 10:40am. Donations are being gratefully received in lieu of flowers for Dogs Trust. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

SUMMERS PATRICIA VICTORIA

22nd June 2018
Aged 68 years

Died peacefully following a courageous battle. Beloved Wife of Ken, loving Mother of Jenni and Helen, Mother-in-law of Dermot and Richard, and Gran of Jasper and Amelie. Private cremation Friday 6th July 1:20pm at Southport Crematorium followed by Service of Celebration of her life at 2:00pm at Ainsdale Methodist Church, 688 Liverpool Road, Southport PR8 3NQ (overlooking the village green). Family request joyful/colourful clothes. Family flowers only but donations in lieu to AMMF (Britain's only Cholangiocarcinoma Charity). Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

KAY ELLEN VERA

21st June 2018
Aged 90 years

Loving Wife of the late Tom. Devoted Mum of David. Vera will be greatly missed by her many relatives and friends. *'Today, tomorrow, our whole lives through, We will always love and remember you'* Funeral service at St Stephens Church, Hightown on Friday 6th July at 12.15 followed by cremation at Thornton Crematorium. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations to The British Lung Foundation c/o H.Leslie Humphreys, 69 Liverpool Road, Crosby L23 5SE 0151 924 4805.

DEATHS

RICHARDS ANNE

26th June 2018
Aged 81 years

Passed away peacefully after a long illness. Devoted Wife of Ken, much loved Mum of Christine and David. Loving Grandmother of Maddy, Josie, Millie and Ted. Anne will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 9th July at 12:00 noon. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations are being gratefully received for RSPCA (Birkdale Branch). Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

PURNELL (COLLINS) JOAN

Friday 29th June 2018
Aged 81 years

Dear Wife of Dillwyn (Deceased) loving Mum to John, Paul & Julie. Funeral service at St.Helens Crematorium on Friday 6th July at 4.00pm Enquiries to Devonport Funeral Services Tel: 01695 731199

SMITH BERYL
Nee Treanor

27th June 2018 at Aintree Hospital after a long illness, aged 78

Dearly beloved Wife of Eddie. Beryl will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Service and cremation at Thornton Crematorium on Tuesday 10th July 2018 at 10am. No flowers please but if desired donations to The Alzheimers Society c/o H.Leslie Humphreys, 69 Liverpool Road, Crosby L23 5SE. Tel 0151 9244805.

Announcements

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PETHERBRIDGE
SHEILA
MARY

Stan and family would like to thank friends and neighbours for their kind messages of sympathy during our sad loss of Sheila. Thanks also to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors for their help. Thanks to Reverend Brian Abrahams. Thank you to all the care services and thank you for the donations to Queenscourt Hospice.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

JOHNSON
FIONA

The family of the late Fiona Johnson wish to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for their very kind thoughts of sympathy, cards and donations for Queenscourt Hospice, received during their recent sad loss. Special thanks to the nurses and staff of ward 14B at Southport Hospital for their every care and attention, also to Rev. Gregory for his kind ministrations. Grateful thanks to M. Rushton Funeral Directors for their dignified funeral arrangements.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GEE
ERNA
(NEE WHITE)
Aged 83 years

Erna will be greatly missed by her loving Husband Don, their Children and Grandchildren.

A service celebrating her life was held at West Lancs Creamatorium on 21st June.

We thank staff at Ormskirk medical practice, Hants Lane clinic, Allied Healthcare and Southport Hospital for their care, and we thank Steve and team at Co Op Funeral Care for all their support.

Please make any donations in Erna's memory to Childline

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PRAYERS

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

Never known to fail.

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, faithful Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother, O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity.

(Make Request).

There are none that can withstand your powers. Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 Times).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3 times).

Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine.

This prayer must be said for three days and after that the request will be granted and the prayer must be published.

A.R.

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KEVIN
TIERNEY
50 TODAY
Happy Birthday

Lots of love from Mum and the Family

XXXX

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Missing you so much and sending you lots of love, hugs and Kisses
Di x Dave x Jade x James x

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PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

2018/0657/FUL Proposed demolition of existing garden wall partitioning existing driveways and the removal of double access gates to enable reasonable car access to park off adjoining highway onto the driveway, allowing space for two cars to park off road. Erection of garden wall around the proposed driveway to maintain privacy and security within the side garden of the property. Replace existing driveway hardstanding material with permeable block paving at 39 Hall Road, Scarisbrick.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
2018/0664/COU Conversion of barn to dwelling at 49 Elmers Green, Skelmersdale.
The proposed development affects a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Acts 1981 applies.
The application affects a Listed Building.
2018/0665/LBC Listed Building Consent - Conversion of barn to dwelling at 49 Elmers Green, Skelmersdale.
The application affects a Listed Building.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application number.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

How information about you will be used
The personal data you provide will be used as part of the Council's statutory planning duties in processing planning and related applications. Some of the personal information you provide will be published. For further information about this notice or how we use your personal data please see: http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning/planning-privacy-notices/level-2-development-management-cil-privacy-notice.aspx and http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/about-the-council/legal-statements-and-foi/privacy and data protection gdpr.aspx. Hard copies are available on request.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Dated:4th July 2018
Director of Development and Regeneration PDNOT1002

JOAN FINCH
(Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 32 Elmers Green Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 6SB, who died on 10/03/2018, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 14/09/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
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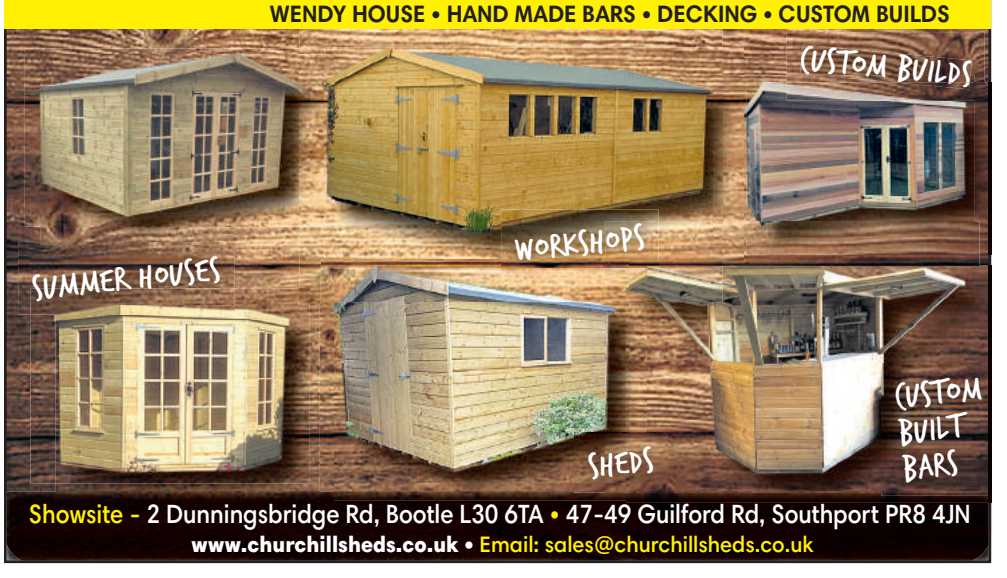

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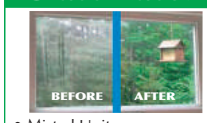

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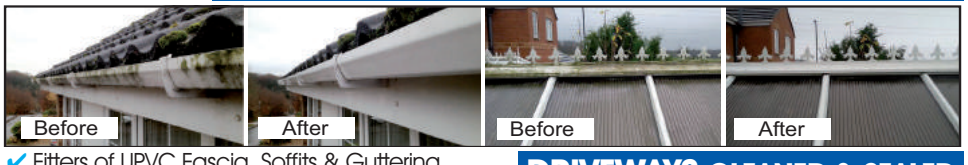

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The Hyundai Kona is already available in petrol form

Kona get myself an electric car

AN ALL-ELECTRIC version of Hyundai's Kona is going on sale across the North West on 2 August.

There'll be two versions – one giving you the equivalent of 139bhp, and a more powerful model with the equivalent of 204bhp – as well a range of up to 292 miles.

Prices start at £29,440 and rise to £36,240 for the range-topping Premium SE model, and that's not including the Government's £4500 grant for electric car buyers.

For more information on the full range of models, visit hyundai.com

Audi has given the A4 a new front bumper and different side skirts

Audi gives A4 models a very gentle facelift

AUDI has given its A4 models a gentle facelift, with the first of the updated models due to arrive towards the end of the year.

Look carefully at the latest model and you'll spot that it has a redesigned front bumper, more pronounced side skirts and – on the Avant-badged estate models – there's also a new roof spoiler at the rear of the vehicle as well.

Audi hasn't confirmed prices for the new car yet, but says it will be taking orders for the new car later this summer.

So there is not too long to go now until you can order one.

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...but I thought the classic cars were definitely worth it!

Life On Cars
DAVID SIMISTER
www.lifeoncars.co.uk

THE HOTTEST thing in Lydiate last weekend wasn't its full-to-bursting classic car show – it was my rather reddish mug afterwards.

With temperatures knocking at the door of 30 degrees Celsius and bright, unwavering sunshine throughout even a liberal dolloping of factor 50 and a hat that in my head was modelled on the one worn by Belloq in *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (but in truth looked a dodgy knockoff of the one sported in Peter Davison-era *Doctor Who* episodes) wasn't going to protect me from a spot of sunburn.

But the cars were most definitely worth it.

It's been a couple of years since I've last ventured to this one-day bash, held in aid of North West Cancer Research, but it's really grown in stature and variety since then.

The venue – the field immediately behind the village's parish hall – hasn't magically increased in size, but the organisers seem to have packed in more variety this year than I ever remember the event having in its early outings.

There was, for instance, a 1910 Sunbeam whose brass plating beamed in the summer sunshine, and forever seemed to be attracting a small crowd on account of it easily being the day's oldest entrant. Then there was Kevin Price's magnificent Volvo P1800 – one of the actual cars used in the filming of *The Saint*, complete with a cardboard cutout of Sir Roger Moore himself.

Then there was a 1960 MGA, owned by Southport car nut Peter Bowen – and has been for the past 50 years.

This year's show managed to pack a lot of fascinating motoring stories into a surprisingly small space.

But my favourite, for all the E-types, TR6s and MGs packed in behind the parish hall, had to be the show's 1947 Singer Super Ten.

There are plenty of people who want to enjoy Austin-Healeys and Triumph Spitfires, which is why there are so many of them on the roads at this time of year, but for what would've have been a fairly unremarkable machine when new to have survived more than 70 years – thanks largely, to a succession of devoted owners – is an achievement in itself.

It probably hasn't been that long since you've seen an MG or old Jag zip past – but when was the last time you saw a Singer Super Ten?

Unless you went to the show last Sunday, of course.

In which case, I apologise for the hat.

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly

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Amount of Credit	£15,157.08
47 Monthly Payments	£229.00
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Amount of Credit	£12,601.00
47 Monthly Payments	£198.00
Optional Final Payment	£4,553.00
Interest Charges	£1,328.03
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Amount of Credit	£16,250.17
47 Monthly Payments	£239.00
Optional Final Payment	£6,749.00
Interest Charges	£1,777.89
Annual Mileage	5,000
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Cash Price	£15,570.39
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Deposit Allowance	£600.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£14,261.39
47 Monthly Payments	£209.98
Optional Final Payment	£5,955.00
Interest Charges	£1,562.67
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£17,133.06
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Cash Price	£21,336.43
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Deposit Allowance	£1,700.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£18,887.43
47 Monthly Payments	£249.00
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Skipper sees Burscough home to narrow victory at Wavertree to lift them nearer to safety

BURSCOUGH lifted themselves nearer to safety in the First Division with a two wicket win at fellow relegation threatened side Wavertree.

The hosts were put in to bat and slipped from 124-2 (Tom Oughterson 46) to 186 all out, thanks to a fine spell of bowling from Lee Berrie who took 5-33 off 15.5 overs.

In reply, skipper Jon Stone 53* and Brendon Domigan 44 anchored the innings as Burscough wrapped up victory on 187-8, with John Nation taking the bowling honours with 4-48.

Southport & Birkdale extended their lead at the top to 50 points with a seven wicket home win against Fleetwood Hesketh.

The visitors chose to bat and slumped from 78-2 (Huw Summerfield 38 & Neil Rimmer 34) to 110-8 before a late onslaught from Lee Rimmer 31 off 17 deliveries saw them dismissed for 153, with Gary Keedy 4-45 and skipper Chris Firth 3-33 doing most of the damage with the ball.

In reply, in form Bradley Yates took his seasons run tally past 650 with an unbeaten 83* taking his average to 131 as he and Harry May helped S&B home with an undefeated run a ball 39* as the hosts cruised to victory on 154-3.

Ainsdale were beaten by five wickets at Sefton Park, the visitors chose to bat and thanks to runs from skipper Andy Barlow 80, Andy Davies 50* and Stephen Lucas 35 were able declare on 228-5. In reply, opener Sean Vandome hit an unbeaten century (126* inc 18x4 & 4x6) and Greg Harvey 50 a half century as the hosts eased to victory on 229-5, with Joe Lowe taking the bowling honours with 4-53.

Burscough lifted themselves nearer to safety with a two wicket win at fellow relegation threatened side Wavertree, the hosts were put in to bat and slipped from 124-2.

In the Second Division, Hightown St Mary's pulled further away from danger with a four wicket home win against Alder, the visitors elected to bat first and thanks to Liam Naylor 51, Joe Bennett 36, Alasdair Keogh 30 and Michael Ambrose 30 were able to post 210 up on the board, with Jim Kelly taking 7-80. In reply, Zimbabwe under 19 star Jayden Schadendorf hit a superb unbeaten 130 (21x4 & 2x6) off 116 deliveries as he and Kris Jones 16* took the hosts to victory on 214-6, with Keogh capping of a fine individual performance with 5-74.

Southport Trinity were beaten by 26 runs at Parkfield Liscard, the hosts chose to bat and thanks to runs from Rob Courtney 47 and Muhammad Ghafoor 31 were able to declare on 195-9 with Tony Campbell taking 3-37. Trinity were then left to rue five ducks as they were dismissed for 169, with Wim Van Der Walt 71, Phil Buck 29 and Jake Sunderland 27 scoring almost all the runs, whilst Muhammed Sharafat took 3-42.

Ormskirk go top after huge win over Rainhill

Armstrong century followed by the third six wicket haul of season for Hartley

ORMSKIRK leaped up to top spot in the Liverpool Competition Premier Division with a 118 run win at Rainhill, *writes Glenn Wallworth.*

After electing to bat, Ormskirk piled up 258-3 declared thanks in the main to John Armstrong (112 inc 11x4 & 4x6) who scored his second century of the season, whilst he was ably supported by Josh Bohannon 86*, Andy Baybutt 30 and Gary Knight 25*.

In reply, Tyler McGladdery hit a run a ball 50 but his efforts were in vain as Tom Hartley 6-25 took his third six wicket haul of the season as the hosts were dismissed for 140.

Long time Premier Division leaders Northern dropped down to second place after being held to a draw at Formby who are in third place.

Northern chose to bat and managed to post a total of 203 up on the board, with Jack Boardman 61, Chris Laker 57 and Justin Snow 41 scoring the bulk of the runs, whilst Ben Aitchison took 3-46 with the ball.

In reply, the early loss of former England Test opener Haseeb Hameed for a first ball duck put a huge dent in the run chase as the hosts settled on batting out for a draw 137-3 off 57 overs, with Lancashire's Karl Brown unbeaten on 46* from 153 deliveries and skipper James Seward unbeaten on 35, whilst once again Tom Sephton led the bowling attack with 3-60 off 28 miserly overs.

Bootle were beaten by two wickets at home against bottom of the table New Brighton, the hosts won the toss and elected to bat with runs from Danny Davies 71, Sam Kershaw 54, Will Hale 41 and an unbeaten 28* from Will Purser enabling them to declare after 45 overs on 254-5. In reply, Mark Rowland 65, Andrew Clarke 50, Louis Botes 47 and David While 29 all weighed in with vital runs to take the visitors to their first win of the campaign on 256-8, with Bootle skipper Craig Prince who took his second five wicket haul in as many weeks with 5-59 and Davies 3-75 taking the wickets to fall.

Northern's Jack Boardman who top scored with 61 in the top of the table clash against Formby. Picture by Roger Green.

● This weekend's local LDCC fixture's (1pm): Northern v Bootle, Ormskirk v Lytham, Rainford v Formby, Ainsdale v Wavertree, Burscough v Liverpool, Fleetwood Hesketh v Prestatyn, Newton le Willows v Southport & Birkdale, Alder v Southport Trinity, Maghull v Northop Hall, whilst Hightown St Mary's have no match due to Skelmersdale 1st XI dropping out of the league.

Skem make raft of new signings ahead of pre-season friendly against Morecambe

SKELMERSDALE United will face League Two opposition in the build-up to the new season after it was confirmed they will play Morecambe, *writes Neil Leatherbarrow.*

It has been a busy couple of weeks at Skelmersdale United, signing a number of new players including an FA Trophy winner, but perhaps the biggest news is that they will take on Morecambe on Friday, July 27 with a 7.45pm kick off.

It will be a good opportunity for Dave Powell's team to see how they compare with a full time professional outfit.

Skelmersdale begin their pre-season fixtures on Tuesday, July 17 with a trip to Manchester where they will take on North-West Counties side West Didsbury & Chorlton for a 7.15pm kick off.

They follow up on the North-West Counties theme with an away game on the artificial surface at St Helens Town on Thursday, July 19, kick off 7.45pm.

Jason Carey

On Saturday, July 20 Skem travel up the M6 to Lancaster City, then on Tuesday, July 24 they have a shot at the Parbold Hill derby when they are away to Charnock Richard.

Skelmersdale also have games scheduled against Blyth AFC (home) on Saturday, July 28, Ashton Town (away) on Tuesday, July 31 and Welsh League Airbus UK (home) on Saturday, August 4. We understand that more games are to be arranged including one on Saturday, August 11.

The big news signing at Skem this week is the arrival of central defender Michael White.

Michael captained Skem during Tommy Lawson's reign before leaving in 2011, having made over 157 appearances for the club.

Michael has one other claim to fame though as perhaps the last still playing member of the famous Burscough team who in 2003 beat Tamworth at Villa Park to lift the FA Trophy.

Michael was a teenager in those days and came on as substitute, but he has the medal to prove it.

His other clubs in recent times include Formby, Runcorn Linnets, AFC Liverpool and Widnes. He will undertake duties on the coaching staff as well as playing.

Connor Belger

Dave Powell has also made a group of other signing, a couple of them rather promising ones.

Perhaps the biggest name out of the other signings is striker Jason Carey, a man with a reputation for goals.

Jason made his name with Formby scoring many goals as the now defunct club won honours in the North-West Counties before he cemented his reputation with Glossop North End.

He has spent time at Runcorn Linnets, Runcorn Town and AFC Liverpool, last season he was with Congleton Town.

Others include Kieron Brislen a former Formby, Runcorn Linnets, Bootle and AFC Liverpool player and defender Connor Belger who arrives via a similar route having briefly been at Stormy Corner under Tommy Lawson back in 2009.

Another is goalkeeper Terry Smith, who was a first team player at Southport in the Blue Square North when Peter Davenport was manager at Haig Avenue; he was with Trafford last season.

Two other signings for Skem are Dave Moore who was captain at Atherton LR and youngster Jack McConville from Hyde United.

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SKELMERSDALE
Champion
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YOUR LOCAL NEWS IS INSIDE...

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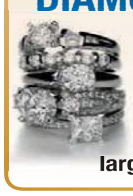
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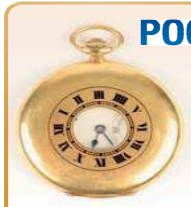
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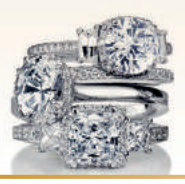

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ART DECO DIAMOND JEWELLERY

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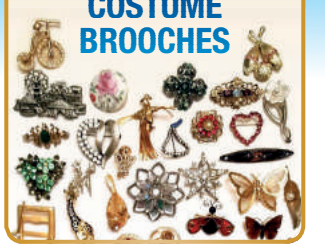
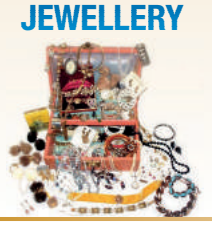
GOLD BROOCHES

COSTUME BROOCHES



BOXES OF COSTUME JEWELLERY



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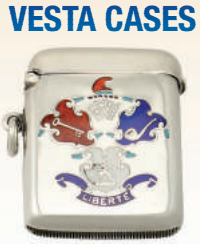

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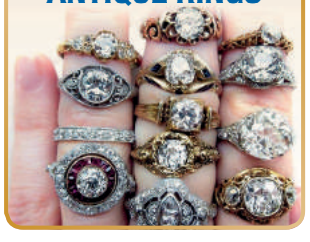

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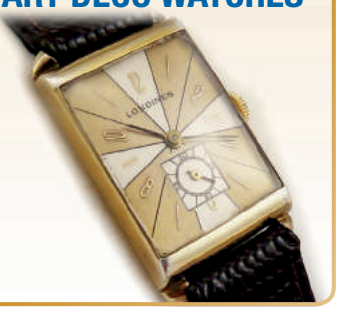

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